

From: Diane Screnci *NE*  
To: Eliot Brenner; Samuel Collins  
Date: 09/28/2007 12:28:40 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Fw: Security Warnings Ignored at Peach Bottom Nuclear Power Plant

FYI -

Diane Screnci  
Sr. Public Affairs Officer  
USNRC, RI  
610/337-5330

>>> <GLenton@patriot-news.com> 09/28/2007 12:23 PM >>>  
Diane,

Is there anybody who can comment on this letter POGO has posted on their web site indicating that the NRC was notified of security issues at Peach Bottom earlier this year.

Garry

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Garry Lenton  
The Patriot-News  
P.O. Box 2265  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17105  
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"A time comes when silence is betrayal." - Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.  
----- Forwarded by Garry Lenton/Patriot-News on 09/28/2007 12:21 PM -----

"Marthena Cowart" <[mccowart@pogo.org](mailto:mccowart@pogo.org)>  
09/28/2007 12:12 PM

To  
[glenton@patriot-news.com](mailto:glenton@patriot-news.com)  
cc

Subject  
Security Warnings Ignored at Peach Bottom Nuclear Power Plant

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact: Peter Stockton or Marthena Cowart, 202-347-1122

Security Warnings Ignored at Peach Bottom Nuclear Power Plant  
March 2007 Letter Warned of Sleeping Guards

Washington, D.C. -- Today in a letter to Chairman Dale Klein of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Danielle Brian, Executive Director of the Project On Government Oversight (POGO), strongly suggested that NRC

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Region I personnel be excluded from investigations into security problems at Peach Bottom.

POGO cites a March 2007 letter in which a former employee at Peach Bottom attempted to warn the NRC about sleeping officers and excessive overtime, which are the focus of controversy this week. According to the letter, NRC's Region I "has repeatedly ignored such warnings from security officers." A copy of the letter can be viewed here:  
<http://www.pogoarchives.org/m/nss/peach-bottom-2007.pdf>

Full text of POGO's letter to the NRC follows below.

A 2002 report by POGO "Nuclear Power Plant Security: Voices from Inside the Fences" reported that security guards at the nation's nuclear power plants were being excessively overworked post 9/11, leading to fatigue and inability to perform. (See  
<http://www.pogo.org/p/environment/eo-020901-nukepower.html> )

Founded in 1981, the Project On Government Oversight (POGO) is an independent nonprofit that investigates and exposes corruption and other misconduct in order to achieve a more accountable federal government.

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September 28, 2007

Chairman Dale E. Klein  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Klein:

POGO has been closely following a series of investigative reports by WCBS in New York involving videos of sleeping security officers at the Peach Bottom Nuclear Power Plant in eastern Pennsylvania. As you know, Exelon, the power plant owner, has fired Wackenhut, the security contractor at Peach Bottom.

In March 2007, a former employee at Peach Bottom sent a letter to the NRC Resident Inspector (attached) at the plant in an attempt to warn about the sleeping officers and excessive overtime, which are the focus of controversy this week. There is no indication that the NRC Resident Inspector or Region I followed up on the letter. According to the letter, current security officers at the plant were so fearful of retaliation, that they were unwilling to report their concerns. The letter describes a highly retaliatory environment and a security department culture which is geared towards "KEEPING YOUR MOUTH SHUT."

In fact, Region I has repeatedly ignored such warnings from security officers. For example, Salem and Hope Creek Nuclear Power Plant security officers contacted the Congress in 2003 about fatigue problems and lack of training after their pleas for help from Region I were ignored. POGO arranged a meeting between NRC Commissioner Edward McGaffigan and 45 security officers from Salem Hope Creek. Commissioner McGaffigan was shocked by the conditions, and immediately got the Commission to approve Orders

changing the overtime rules to prevent overworking of guards and increasing training. Region I had been fully aware of these problems, and ignored them. Similar issues were raised with Region I from security officers at Beaver Valley and Indian Point nuclear power plants.

In a final act of desperation at Peach Bottom, a security officer videotaped sleeping security officers in the Ready Room, as seen on WCBS. On September 20, 2007, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a press release announcing that it was dispatching a five-member team to Peach Bottom to conduct a special security investigation, including "specialists from the Agency's Region I office" and "NRC Resident Inspectors" who "have been monitoring the situation."

I strongly suggest that, under these circumstances, Region I and the NRC Resident Inspector should not be involved in any way in this investigation. In fact, I believe they should be the target of an NRC Inspector General investigation (IG). POGO has been in touch with the IG about this matter.

Sincerely,

Danielle Brian  
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc:

House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairman John Dingell and Ranking Member Joe Barton

House Committee on Energy Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Committee Chairman Bart Stupak and Ranking Member Ed Whitfield

Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer and Ranking Member James M. Inhofe

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Jeff Bingaman and Ranking Member Pete V. Domenici

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CC: Daniel Holody; Darrell Roberts; David Lew; James Clifford; James Trapp; Karl Farrar; Marc Dapas; Marsha Gamberoni; Neil Sheehan; Richard Urban