

From: Richard Barkley
To: Eric Epstein
Date: 10/12/2007 8:31:07 AM
Subject: Re: Fwd: And blame stops where?

Information in this record was deleted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Exemptions b2 FOIA/PA b7C-D

Thanks for the article Eric and for passing on your opinions. I think we had a good exchange Tuesday evening - I was hoping for a large, but manageable, number of speakers each asking us tough questions. We definitely got that.

Have a nice weekend.

Richard S. Barkley, P.E.
Technical Communications Assistant, NRC Region I
(610) 337-5065

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>>> Eric Epstein <ericepstein@...> 10/11/2007 7:13 PM >>>

Begin forwarded message:

- > From: Eric Epstein <ericepstein@...>
- > Date: October 11, 2007 7:06:42 AM EDT
- > To: Eric Epstein <ericepstein@...>
- > Subject: And blame stops where?
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- > York Dispatch
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- >
- > And blame stops where?
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- > Article Last Updated: 10/11/2007 10:49:38 AM EDT
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- > Security guards sleeping "on the job" at the Peach Bottom Atomic
- > Power Station clearly is unacceptable behavior to the plant's
- > operator, its security contractor and the federal agency that
- > oversees such facilities.
- > But the way plant officials and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- > are finger-pointing and passing around the blame also doesn't
- > measure up.
- > The NRC says the plant's owner, Exelon, is to blame for the guards
- > napping in a "ready room" at the facility; Exelon says it also is
- > outraged by the guards' napping and has fired the plant's security
- > firm, Wackenhut, which hired the guards involved.
- > And while Exelon acknowledges to the NRC that "inattentive
- > behavior" is not acceptable, the blame seems inappropriately to be
- > rolling down the proverbial hill.
- > Eric Epstein, chairman of watchdog group Three Mile Island Alert,

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- > said of the guards involved: "I've worked with them. They're not
- > bad people" and that he fears that they, not management, will be
- > the scapegoats in the affair.
- > It appears the napping also was the result of up to 10 officers per
- > shift forced to remain alert for 12-hour shifts in not the best of
- > working environments -- a staging area where guards sit and wait;
- > an area with inadequate air conditioning and lacking items such as
- > radios or computers normally used in such a room.
- > It's a situation where a mass pointing of fingers downhill would
- > seem the natural reaction. But Exelon could have provided a more
- > adequate staging area, or "ready room"; Wackenhut certainly could
- > have been more attentive to existing regulations; the guards
- > clearly should not have been sleeping; and the NRC?
- > They are the folks whose salary we pay to ensure that security
- > slips such as the unacceptable napping don't occur. Blame enough
- > for everyone here.
- > Samuel Collins, head of agency for the Northeast, says the current
- > federal monitoring program relies on such issues being self
- > reported and that it "shakes" him to know Exelon didn't know it was
- > happening.
- > Shakes us also. But the buck has to stop somewhere.
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