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Possible Improvements to the Level of Openness and Transparency of Information Associated With NRC Security Inspection and Security Performance Assessment of NRC Licensees

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General Comment

As a member of the general public living with a nuclear plant in my back yard, I have many concerns about the safety and security of all nuclear plants. So it has been with great interest that I have attended two meetings on openness and security, one via conference call.

The mission statement of the N.R.C. and the belief of nearly every resident in this area or any nuclear plant, is that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is our protection. Your agency is there to regulate the industry and provide us, the general public with assurance that we are safe. Safe via security at the plant, safe from pollution, safe from radioactive releases. I

Exelon spilled over three million gallons of radioactive waste in 1998 and 2000. We as residents were not informed of these leaks until it had seeped onto our property and into our groundwater in 2005. The N.R.C. failed to provide the protection we expected. The resident inspector did little to earn the trust the general public. It all makes it difficult to have faith that the N.R.C. is performing at a level above and beyond in the security area.

The day after the meeting in Morris, the Kankakee Daily Journal published an

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article stating LaSalle Nuclear Station, operated by Exelon had completed work that required permission from the N.R.C. They had not applied for the permit prior to performing the work in an effort to save time. Therefore, one can only believe the licensee is assured the permit will be granted.

At the meeting we also discussed the N.R.C. as the authority with which the licensee "must comply." Where is the adherence to this authority? The licensee moved forward with the project without compliance.

This may seem as though I am pointing to something very minor in the eye of the N.R.C., however, it does little to provide any confidence that the resident inspector is performing in the best interest of protecting the public if the licensee had the audacity to complete this project. It does little to lend to a relationship of trust that the resident inspector allowed the project to continue.

Do I want to know I'm safe? Yes, I want to know the spent fuel pools are not going to be leaking on my land. I want to know the N.R.C. is monitoring the blow down line and it has been repaired and will no longer leak. I want to know that the N.R.C. is doing a health study and changing reference man. I want to know that the security guards at the plant are competent to handle an attack through the barrier wall by a terrorist. I want to believe that the N.R.C. is performing as its' mission statement leads us to believe. Like every other resident of this area I was told it was safe to live here. I was told the N.R.C. is tough, they are there to protect the people, they are the watchdog.

What information do we want? What information do we need? We NEED response to emails, letters and phone calls that are made to the employees of the N.R.C. who freely provide their business cards. If they don't do their job, they shouldn't have the job. We NEED proof the the N.R.C. is providing protection for the general public. Again, if they are not doing their job, they shouldn't have the job. We NEED honest answers to the questions we present.

In closing, I would say before you can assure a member of the public that we are safe, your transparency needs to start with response to the general public in providing honest answers. That would begin to build that relationship of trust.

Wanda Alderson