



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS FIELD OFFICE, REGION IV
612 EAST LAMAR BLVD, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4125

August 12, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO: Elmo E. Collins, Regional Administrator
Region IV

FROM: Crystal D. Holland, Director *ex*
Office of Investigations Field Office, Region IV

SUBJECT: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION - ASSIST TO STAFF:
INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT TO NRC STAFF WITH INTERVIEW OF
ALLEGER (CASE NO. 4-2009-052F/RIV-2009-A-0041)

On February 27, 2009, (b)(7)(C) Energy Northwest (EN), Columbia Generating Station (CGS), Richland, Washington, emailed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) citing the following concerns at CGS:
1) EN inappropriately identified that condensate filter demineralizers (CFD) pre-coat pump flow significantly contributed to Cycle 15 fuel corrosion, 2) if CFDs D and F had performance problems that contributed to Cycle 15 fuel corrosion, then EN misidentified the causes of those performance problems, and 3) during Cycle 17, EN conducted activities that were nuclear safety concerns regarding Cycle 15 fuel; nuclear fuel rods developed nodules in Cycle 17.

On March 2, 2009, (b)(7)(C) concerns were forwarded to NRC Region IV (RIV) where on March 3, 2009, a RIV Allegation Review Board (ARB) met and the ARB determined that an inspection would be conducted to address (b)(7)(C) concerns.

On May 21, 2009, (b)(7)(C) contacted Nicholas HERNANDEZ, NRC Resident Inspector, CGS, and reported two additional concerns: 4) unclean water may have been used to clean resin strainers, leading to unnecessary fuel corrosion, with a EN employee (b)(7)(C) purportedly provided false information to NRC inspectors who were addressing this issue and 5) that a root cause analysis directed to examine the fuel corrosion was fraudulent and lacked objectivity which ultimately led EN to purchase new condensers.

On June 2, 2009, the RIV ARB met to discuss (b)(7)(C) additional concerns. The ARB requested the assistance of the Office of Investigations (OI), RIV, with the interview of (b)(7)(C) to obtain a complete record of his concerns.

On July 1, 2009, OI:RIV and HERNANDEZ interviewed (b)(7)(C) in order to obtain amplifying information pertaining to the concerns that he had previously raised (Exhibit 1). During the interview (b)(7)(C) provided documentation and a compact diskette which contained information to support his assertions (Exhibits 2 and 3).

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DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS, REGION IV

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No further action was requested by RIV staff; therefore, this assist to staff is hereby closed. Should any new information develop specific to conduct or actions involving willfulness or wrongdoing, OI:RIV will consider initiating supplementary investigative action as deemed appropriate.

Enclosures: Exhibits 1-3

cc w/enclosure:
C. Carpenter, OE

cc w/o enclosure:
C. Marco, OGC
E. Leeds, NRR (Attn: G. Cwalina, OAD, NRR)

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Distribution:
s/f (4-2009-052F)
c/f
N. Crouch, OI:HQ

DOCUMENT: S:\OIFY2009 Closed Cases

OFFICE	OI:RI	OI:RIV		
NAME	JJ Ferich <i>JJ Ferich</i>	CHolland <i>CH</i>		
DATE	8/4/09	08/05/2009		

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