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

February 19, 2010

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

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

SUBJECT: COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION - ASSIST TO STAFF: INTERVIEW
ALLEGERS TO CLARIFY SAFETY CONCERNS AND ALLEGED
DISCRIMINATION
(CASE NO. 4-2010-009F/RIV-2009-A-0144, RIV-2009-0155)

On October 22, 2009, Mahdi HAYES, Resident Inspector, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), at Energy Northwest's Columbia Generating Station (CGS), Richland, Washington, received two separate concerns which alleged that a CGS manager had created a "chilled work environment" to prevent employees from raising safety concerns and that individuals had been subjected to harassment and intimidation for reporting safety concerns.

7c According to (b)(7)(C) CGS, she has been subjected to continued discrimination for raising safety issues beginning in (b)(7)(C) by (b)(7)(C) (b)(7)(C) CGS (b)(7)(C) reported that she is now frightened of (b)(7)(C) and scared to report safety concerns. (b)(7)(C) advised that although she had reported her concerns to the Human Resources Department and the Employee Concerns Program at CGS, her concerns have not been resolved by CGS [Allegation No. RIV-2009-A-0144].

In the second allegation (b)(7)(C) CGS, reported that he had concerns about the implementation of the Cyber Security rule at CGS; however, he fears retaliation by CGS management [NEI] if he reports those concerns. (b)(7)(C) further advised that he had discussed these issues with (b)(7)(C) and his immediate manager [NFI] [Allegation No. RIV-2009-A-0155].

On November 17, 2009, an Allegation Review Board, Region IV (RIV), convened and requested investigative support from the Office of Investigations (OI), RIV, with interviews of (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(C) Specifically, OI was requested to conduct interviews of (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(C) with technical support, to obtain clarifying details of their safety concerns and alleged discrimination by CGS management.

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7c
On January 13, 2010, (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 1) (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 2) and (b)(7)(C) (Exhibit 3) were interviewed at the Holiday Inn Express, Pasco, Washington, by OI: RIV, with technical assistance provided by Ralph COSTELLO, Team Leader and Stella OPARA, Nuclear Security Specialist, Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR), NRC, for specific information related to safety concerns and alleged discrimination by CGS management. On the same date [January 13, 2010], subsequent to the interviews, (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(C) provided documentation to which they believe describes the harassment and intimidation from CGS management, as well as, safety concerns related to the implementation of 10 CFR 73.54, Protection of digital computer and communication systems and networks (Exhibits 4-6).

No further action was required by OI: RIV; therefore, this assist to staff is hereby closed. Should RIV staff determine evidence of wrongdoing or misconduct, OI: RIV will consider initiating an investigation action as deemed appropriate.

Enclosure: Exhibits 1-6

cc w/enclosure:
R. Zimmerman, OE

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

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Distribution:
s/f (4-2010-009F)
c/f
N. Crouch, OI:HQ

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