



UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

Local 1-2, Affiliated with AFL-CIO

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Annette L. Vietti-Cook
Secretary of the Commission
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-001

Re: Docket ID NRC-2013-0024

Dear Ms. Vietti-Cook:

I am James Slevin, Vice President of the Utility Workers Union of America, Local 1-2, New York City. Our Local represents the Members of Local 1-2 who work for Entergy Corporation, which operates the Indian Point nuclear power facility in Buchanan, New York. This facility provides approximately 30% of the power for New York City and Westchester County in New York State. More than 400 Members of Local 1-2 work at Indian Point.

In the above referenced docket item, the NEI is asking the NRC to void our collective bargaining agreement with our employer and provide it with an arbitrary and capricious tool that strips the employee of any right to due process as outlined in our agreement with our employer.

The grievance and arbitration procedures that we enjoy with our employer at Indian Point have worked smoothly over the years to insure that the facility is safe and secure. The men and women of our Local who maintain and operate the facility have an exemplary safety and disciplinary record at Indian Point. In fact, there is no evidence in our records of grievances and arbitrations that have resulted in any failure of safety and security at Indian Point. In short, there is no rational argument to hand the NEI the arbitrary powers it seeks. It is nothing more than a Union busting tool hiding behind the notion of national security.

This in itself is antithetical to the laws and ideals of our nation. This action, if the NRC even entertains the idea, if implemented would place in the hands of corporations powers that are now safely ensconced under the rule of law. Our Union and our country have been built on the idea of the rule of law, believing that justice prevails. The system works. Let's not "fix" something that isn't "broken."

A naked power grab by the NEI is bad public policy. It would place in the hands of a select few dictatorial power that would operate extra-judicially behind closed doors and in secret.

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For our part UWUA Local 1-2 cannot imagine any scarier prospect than this when it comes to the safety and security of Indian Point. We suggest that the NRC become equally wary of this proposal lest it concentrate extra-legal power in the hands of powerful interests that, essentially, would be granted the ability to operate outside the rule of law.

In essence it is clear that should anything resembling the NEI's proposal come to pass the Collective Bargaining Agreement we now work under will be discarded. Instead, the operators will be given the power to eject all checks and balances we now have to ensure fairness at work for our members and the safety of Indian Point.

We reiterate that the history of our members at Indian Point illustrates a stellar work and safety record. There seems to be no rhyme or reason for the NEI to submit these draconian ideas to the NRC except in the matter of an attack on its workers and an attempt to subvert the NRC and our nation's labor laws.

We urge you not to open the rulemaking process. To do so would open the door to stripping the NRC of its proper regulatory role and arrogate to the employer all such oversight. That should send chills through those who are charged with overseeing the national security of our country's nuclear power infrastructure.

The NEI's request to promulgate this rule by raising the specter of a "disgruntled" worker compromising our national safety is laughable on its face. There is no factual basis for making such a proposal. The NEI in its crude power play is betting that fear and not fact will be a motivator to overturn the current system.

So, under the rubric of "national security" the NEI thinks that the NRC should open itself to rulemaking that will remove its steady hand from oversight of NEI members' actions and activities. This is chilling in the extreme.

Let's not leave common sense behind. Let's tell the NEI that it is overstepping all boundaries by trying to undermine the NRC, thereby truly endangering public safety.

On behalf of the thousands of men and women who toil daily to keep our nuclear power plants operating for the public good, we urge you not to give unfettered, unchecked power to corporate entities.

Sincerely,



James Slevin
Vice President
UWUA Local 1-2, New York

Mr. Harry J. Farrell
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Mr. James Slevin
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Re:	Docket ID NRC-2013-0024	CC:	

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