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January 10, 1990

Mr. Kenneth M. Carr  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Carr:

I received a letter from Cynthia Banas regarding the Nine Mile Unit Two nuclear plant. She expressed some concern about the safety of this particular plant and requested that an investigation of this matter be conducted.

I have referred a copy of the letter to you in the hopes that you will promptly address these concerns. I would appreciate it if you would send your report on the plant and its safety to me so I may forward them on to my constituent.

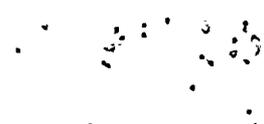
With warmest regards,

Sincerely,

Sherwood Boehlert  
Member of Congress

SB:dd  
Enclosure

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PDR ADDCK 05000220  
H PDR



10-29-89  
L.D. - Box 241  
Vernon, New York  
13476

Dear Representative Loebert,

I was appalled to read the enclosed column in the October 19-89 issue of the Utica O-D, especially since I heard on Radio WIBX, Utica, on October 17, 89 that Nine Mile #2 Nuclear Plant has been closed down indefinitely because of cracks. The plant had just reopened on October 13th after a shut-down.

Don't you think it's about time that the people of the great state of New York are entitled to an investigation of Niagara-Mohawk and its nuclear-power plants?

And most certainly we do not need Victor Steeds Jr. with his murky resume to be in charge of "cleaning up" the nuclear plants run by the Dept. of Energy. The Dept. of Energy situation is a critical one and deserves a person of the highest integrity to deal with those problems.

NOV 03 1989

Thank you,  
Cynthia Lewis

In enclosing latest info on Steeds appearing in this morning's paper. It has been this & should be



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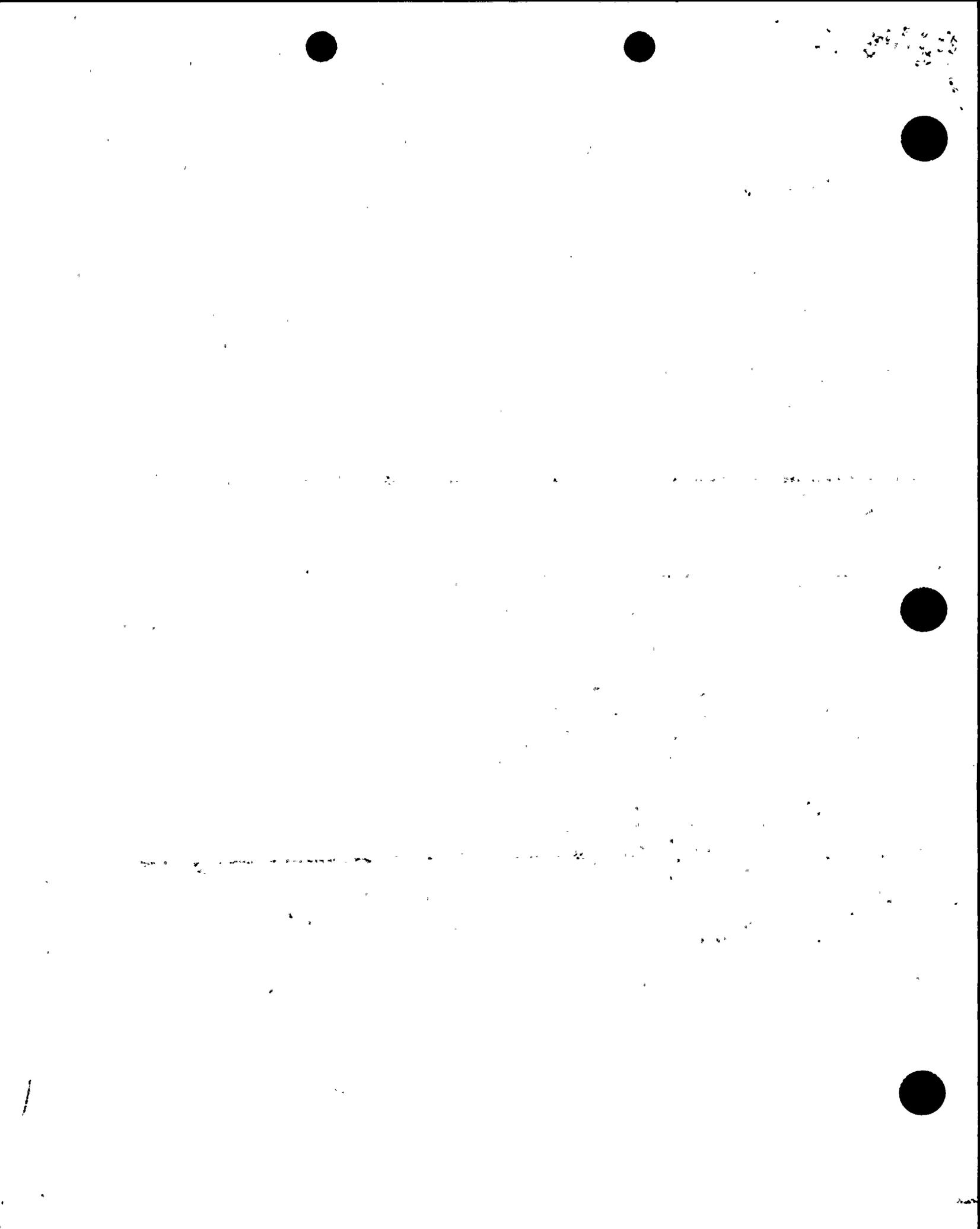


10-30-89

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## Pipe problem discovered at Nine Mile 2

SYRACUSE — A problem with a cooling system at the Nine Mile Point 2 nuclear power plant will keep the facility from reopening on schedule, plant officials said yesterday. The plant was shut down nearly two weeks ago when a malfunction was discovered in its electronic system. It was being brought back on line late last week when a problem with the cooling system was discovered, said Robert Burtch, a Niagara Mohawk spokesman.



*Utica Observer Dispatch 10/19/89*

# Nuclear boss Stello under fire

## Question marks: hot temper, coolness toward safety

WASHINGTON — People keep investigating Victor Stello Jr., executive director of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and George Bush's curious choice to clean up the nuclear weapons-plants mess. Of the five congressional hearings held so far, some have gone into his notorious permissiveness toward nuclear power-plant safety violations; some have gone into his character, which has a streak of vindictiveness running through it.



Inspector and Auditor, who also hated OI. Together, Stello and Connelly set out, at huge public expense, to teach Fortuna that he was not supposed to harrass nuclear plant operators for simple little violations of safety standards.

Stello and Connelly found the perfect instrument, they thought, for running Fortuna off the road in an informer named Douglas Ellison, who supposedly had devastating information about drugs at a nuclear plant in Oswego, N.Y. Ellison was not your ordinary, garden-variety whistleblower. A former nuclear plant worker, who had previously given valuable information to the NRC, he wanted cash for his secrets.

Stello overrode NRC's legal staff and forked over \$6,000. Why did he buy the information instead of subpoenaing it? He had to keep the confidentiality of the investigation, he rumbled.

What, asked Kostmayer, was the rush to pay off the informer? Because the Oswego plant was about to be restarted, said Stello. But the date slipped until the following March, Kostmayer pointed out. No harm was done, Stello said, by the seven-month delay. The suspected drug users were

not licensed plant workers, just electricians and welders, who did not work in the unit that had been closed down. But Kostmayer said briskly, and proved it from papers, that they worked in the unit that was about to be restarted.

Kostmayer had defrocked the bully. His cover for the fraudulent investigation of Fortuna had been blown: If dopers were fitting a nuclear plant for restart, things were even worse at the NRC than had been supposed. Or else he could admit he wasn't looking for wrongdoing in the plant, but searching for warts on Roger Fortuna. He was cornered. He admitted "a stupid oversight."

The House, in airing these squalors, is doing the Senate's work. The Senate Armed Services Committee, which is headed by stately Sam Nunn, will have to pass on Stello's qualifications. No date has been set for the hearings, and nobody is keen to lead the opposition, not even Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, who investigated Stello's persecution of Fortuna and found it reprehensible.

The House is eager to join the advise and consent process. John Dingell, Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, has written a blistering letter to Nunn. He says that "the only benefit of moving Mr. Stello to the Department of Energy is ridding the NRC of Mr. Stello." Nunn has not replied.

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*Mary McGrory writes a syndicated column on national and international issues. Address: Universal Press Syndicate, Time-Life Bldg., New York, N.Y. 10020. Her column appears every Thursday and Monday.*

The two strains were joined together at the latest hearing, which took place last week under the gavel of Rep. Peter Kostmayer, D-Pa., chairman of an energy oversight subcommittee. Kostmayer, a slight and diffident man, stalked Stello down the documents and memos that detailed persecution of Roger Fortuna, a haired gumshoe, who worked for NRC's Office of Investigation. OI was created to monitor health and safety violations, and Stello took it as a personal affront.

Stello hounded Fortuna out of OI. Fortuna took the stand to bewail the fact that he had exhausted his life savings and was borrowing from his elderly parents to clear his good name and get his old job back.

Stello, a mountain of a man with the profile of a Roman general, one who has found himself in an unruly province, took the stand and confirmed all the worst suspicions of his critics. He also gave a picture of savage infighting and back-stabbing that makes the NRC sound like Falcon Crest East.

Stello was in cahoots with a turf-minded bureaucrat named Sharon Connelly, former head of the Office of



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