

DCS



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

APR 10 1987

50-272/311

The Honorable Bill Bradley
United States Senator
Post Office Box 1720
Union, New Jersey 07083

Dear Senator Bradley:

This is in response to your letter of March 4, 1987 concerning an allegation by Mr. Peter Blumberg that employees at the Salem Nuclear Power Plant had been observed using drugs outside the plant.

In August 1986, a Policy Statement was published which expresses the Commission's expectations that operating reactor licensees will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that drug use does not adversely impact the safe operation of nuclear plants and the public safety. The industry program includes drug testing as a condition for employment and in cases where there is an indication of possible drug involvement. In addition, some utilities have established programs which include periodic drug testing or randomly scheduled testing. In Salem's case, all new contractor and permanent employees are tested for drugs prior to obtaining access to the facility. Their program also includes unannounced physical examinations for all employees, which includes drug testing. Several personnel have been dismissed as a result of these unannounced tests.

Since involvement with drugs is more likely to occur away from the nuclear plants, the industry program also involves the state or local authorities responsible for enforcing laws in the surrounding area, including on and off site investigations. In Salem's case, the parking lots are frequently patrolled, signs are posted prohibiting alcohol and drugs, and local law enforcement authorities have enforced the law in the parking lot.

Although these measures should deter acts of the types alleged, we recognize that the ability to succeed in all cases may not be absolute. We have referred Mr. Blumberg's letter to appropriate NRC representatives and our licensee for their action. I hope this is responsive to your request and addresses Mr. Blumberg's concern.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Victor Stello ✓

Victor Stello, Jr.
Executive Director for Operations

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