

TO: Joseph M. Hendrie, Chairman USNRC

SUBJECT: Impact of Resident Inspector Program on the
Resident Inspector's Family Unit

FROM: Leona Cook

DATE: June 11, 1979

By way of introduction, I am the wife of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Resident Inspector at the Midland, Michigan Site. My family moved here in July of 1978 and we have been well received by the community and enjoy living here. A recent media release stating that by Fall the NRC will be dispatching many resident inspectors into the field is the impetus for this unsolicited and probably unprecedented memo.

In the past year we have encountered many problems that could not have been anticipated and it is my hope that by bringing these matters to your attention some of the stress can be alleviated for the families of future resident inspectors.

I know that the encouragement and support of a wife and family are an asset to a man's career and the idea of a wife having a positive attitude toward her husband's employer has been forcibly brought home to me living here in Midland. At the onset of the Resident Inspector Program my family hosted a reception for the city and county officials and immediately my daughters and I became part of this community's image of the NRC. It is because I have been part of this image that I feel concerned enough to write this memo.

I have tried to define the areas that have had an impact on our family and therefore have been of concern to me. These areas are:

364 219

7907166031

1. THE INITIAL MOVE

It was approximately eleven months from the announcement that my husband would be assuming the resident position until the letter for authorization of transfer arrived. During these months each week we would hear that next week the official authorization would arrive. This period of indecision was difficult to cope with because far reaching family decisions, major surgery, orthodontic treatment, continuation of advanced music lessons, and the selling of our home, had to be made.

When the transfer was actually made it was a disaster! I can only describe it as a combination of the Katzanjammer Kids and the Demolition Derby. Also contributing to the chaos of the move was the prolonged absence of my husband both before and immediately after the transfer.

2. CATASTROPHIC FINANCIAL STRESS

To date this transfer has cost \$14,000.00 of unreimbursable cash outlay plus \$8,000.00 property devaluation and at this point in time there is no relief in sight for this financial drain.

3. LACK OF KNOWLEDGE

I do not feel a need for or have a desire for detailed technical information. However, an orientation to the goals and objectives of the Resident Inspector Program would have been beneficial, especially as our family has become increasingly conspicuous as the NRC family in the community. It is regrettable that my only contacts with the NRC have been a telephone call made in an hour of extreme distress to the Regional Director and a brief contact at the public reception last Fall.

My husband has made a practice of never discussing specific items or individuals connected with his work in our home. Since coming to Midland much information of a delicate

nature has carried over into our home merely by his being a resident inspector. I have drawn heavily on my years of nursing ethics which ingrained in me that all information committed to my keeping was confidential.

4. REPEATED ATTACKS ON THE INTEGRITY OF MY HUSBAND

My husband has repeatedly been attacked publicly by interveners, reporters, politicians and others and to date there has been no public or private support from the NRC on his behalf. These attackers know nothing of his professional credentials, ethics or dedication. They only know he is a readily accessible object on which to vent their self-serving interests. In a recent attack a politician openly stated..... "That Ronald Cook was an irresponsible employee who could not be trusted and that his qualifications were suspect....." This same politician publicly implied a reprimand or other punitive measures would be taken.

These attacks have been traumatic to me and my children and I will be ever grateful to the neighbors and the many individuals from the community who voluntarily came forward with a vote of confidence for my husband.

The urge has been ever present to openly refute these absurd allegations but I have felt it would embarrass the NRC and that is not my intent. Integrity and public confidence are of utmost importance to my husband and I hope I have been a support to him in these areas.

At this point I deem it necessary to state that I recognize it is not wise to acknowledge or comment publicly on many allegations. Public comment at an inappropriate time would only antagonize some situations.

5. FEELINGS OF PROFESSIONAL INSECURITY AND ISOLATION

I am not an advocate of wife's clubs or employment associated auxiliary organizations so am not recommending that the NRC promote either. I am merely trying to describe the professional insecurity and isolation we have felt as a

family since our transfer to Midland. With each new crisis there is always the thought that the resident inspector will not prove to be a political asset to the NRC and therefore will become a disposable commodity. These feelings might be even more pronounced in an area that is hostile to the Resident Inspector Program or nuclear power.

My recommendations to help alleviate some of the stress areas I have described are:

1. Establishment of an orientation program to inform the participating family of logistics, transfer benefits, the goals and purposes of the Resident Inspector Program, professional ethics, etc.
2. Designate a liaison to maintain an open line of communication with resident inspectors and their families.
3. Prompt processing of pertinent papers and do not leave a family "hanging" for long periods of time.
4. Provide measures to relieve the financial burdens placed on the resident inspectors.
5. Provide positive local media releases at intervals concerning the Resident Inspector Program.
6. An attempt should be made by the NRC to refute false professional information printed about its employees.
7. Renew communication lines with Congress with the hope that the members of that body will find that avenue preferable to the local press.

As I review the past year, I conclude that the Resident Inspector Program is a professional asset to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission but a personal and family liability to the participant. It is my feeling that until the liabilities of the Resident Inspector Program are lessened the program cannot be considered successful. It is my sincere hope that by the submission of these comments I have offered something of value to future participants in this program.

Leona Cook