

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Office of Management and Program Analysis

FROM: An anonymous NRC Inspector in RII

SUBJECT: DIFFERING PROFESSIONAL OPINIONS (NUREG-0500)

I definitely feel that reprisals will be taken for differing professional opinions. The primary method will be through lack of promotion which, of course, you will never be able to prove. For this reason, your system will never work!

At any rate, on the outside chance that you might actually get this system off the ground, your current proposal is biased; you can only document a differing professional opinion in the more conservative direction. This amounts to a ratchet! You should make it clear that, where our professional judgement indicates that the NRC's position is too conservative, that a differing professional opinion may also be addressed with the same protection from retaliation.

Per paragraph 4 of the proposed NUREG-0500:

- a. The prevailing staff view and the NRC's practice is that safety must be absolute, without any "known risk" and is far away and above that which is economical, practical, capable of being justified on any rational grounds, and effective in removing the nuclear option from our nations energy program.
- b. I believe that safety is extremely important, but that some risk is part of living. I would require a more rational approach and would accept recognized engineering practices where these provided "adequate" safety.
- c. If we do not provide for, encourage, and incorporate valid opinions for less stringent requirements, we will rob this country of a valuable, mo an invaluable resource.
- d. To my knowledge, we have no one with any intesinal fortitude in this agency who might be working on a program to rationally review our current requirements to eliminate those which are not required for nuclear safety. It takes neither education or intelligence to constantly insist on MORE; one must have education, intelligence and courage to say enough.

I would love to be able to sign this document, but I realize that I would be quickly purged from the agency as a radical. We are really the NRC, the Nuclear (w)recking Commission.

1944 066

8002080

365