

## UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WASHINGTON D. C. 20055

September 1/, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Clairman ralladino

FROM:

William J. Dircks Executive Director for Operations

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20LY 30, 1981 DIA REPORT, "ADEQUACY OF IE INVESTIGATION 20-358/80-09 AT THE WILLIAM H. ZIMMER NUCLEAR POWER STATION"

Or OIA findings and supporting arguments contained in the August 7, 1981 memorandum, J. Cummings to the Commissioners. disturb me deeply. 1 am furced to conclude that OIA may not clearly understand the NRC mission or priorities, nor the processes and controls involved in the construction of a nuclear power plant. I am unable to conclude that the OIE investigation of Applegate's allegations was unsatisfactory.

Our goal for plants under construction is to insure that they are constructed in a manner to provide adequate public protection after they are licensed to operate. We attempt to ensure that all potential construction defects, irrespective of how they are identified, are adequately corrected prior to the operation of a nuclear power plant. To that end, the optimal use of our resources is achieved when identified defects are verified to be in a utility's corrective action system. The potential for further reduction of risk to the public is not commensurate with the incremental resources required to broaden the depth and breadth of this type of investigation as suggested in the OIA report.

I have been informed there are factual inaccuracies in the DIA report. I will be forwarding our detailed comments on the DIA report in a separate memorandum.

-REC'D CHREN-

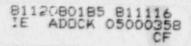
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William J. Dircks Executive Director for Operations

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## Chairman Palladino

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cc: Commissioner Gilinsky Commissioner Bradford Commissioner Ahearne Cummissioner Roberts SECY OPE OGC OIA