



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

September 17, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Calladino

FROM: William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: JULY 30, 1981 OIA REPORT, "ADEQUACY OF IE INVESTIGATION
DO-358/80-09 AT THE WILLIAM H. ZIMMER NUCLEAR POWER
STATION"

Our OIA findings and supporting arguments contained in the August 7, 1981 memorandum, J. Cummings to the Commissioners, disturb me deeply. I am forced 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 OIA report. I will be forwarding our detailed comments on the OIA report in a separate memorandum.

-REC'D CHRYM-

17 SEP 81 5:15

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William J. Dircks".

William J. Dircks
Executive Director for
Operations

cc: See next page

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Chairman Palladino

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cc: Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Bradford
Commissioner Ahearne
Commissioner Roberts
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