



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

November 1, 1989

The Honorable Alan J. Dixon  
United States Senator  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Senator Dixon:

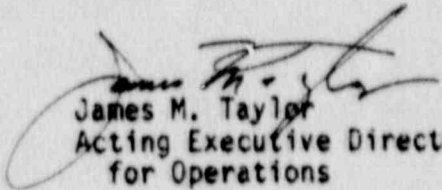
I am responding to a letter which you forwarded to us on September 25, 1989. The letter conveyed the continuing concerns of Mr. H. L. Nickerson about overtime worked by personnel operating nuclear power plants.

The current NRC policy statement entitled "Policy on Factors Causing Fatigue of Operating Personnel at Nuclear Reactors" is enclosed for your information and assistance in responding to Mr. Nickerson. The policy was issued in 1982. Prior to issuance, a draft of the policy was published for public comment and the input the agency received was taken into account in formulating the version now in effect. Since issuance, the NRC, in its continuing review of nuclear power plant operations, has not observed significant safety concerns relating to the amount of overtime worked by personnel performing safety related functions.

In the course of its normal review of policies and technical positions against new information and results of relevant research, the NRC is continuing to study the subject of overtime and its relationship to risk. We will take Mr. Nickerson's views into account as a part of our review.

Please let me know if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
James M. Taylor  
Acting Executive Director  
for Operations

Enclosure:  
As stated

FULL TEXT ASCII SCAN

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For the Appeal Board.  
**C. Jean Shoemaker,**  
*Secretary to the Appeal Board.*  
(FR Doc. 82-1428 Filed 5-25-82; 9:41 am)  
BILLING CODE 7000-01-0

### Nuclear Power Plant Staff Working Hours

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Publication of revised policy regarding nuclear power plant staff working hours

**SUMMARY:** On February 11, 1982, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission published a "Policy on Factors Causing Fatigue of Operating Personnel at Nuclear Reactors," 47 FR 7352.

Comments received since publication have revealed questions concerning the policy statement. Accordingly, the policy statement has been revised and the revised version is reproduced below. Changes include: (1) The addition of a sentence which explicitly states that the objective of the working hour policy is to have operating personnel work an 8-hour day, 40-hour week; (2) The addition of a phrase to indicate that the stated working hour restrictions are applicable during extended periods of shutdown for refueling, major maintenance or major plant modifications; and (3) The addition of a phrase exempting extended shutdown periods from the requirements to consider use of overtime only on an individual basis.

### Policy on Factors Causing Fatigue of Operating Personnel at Nuclear Reactors

Licenses of operating plants and applicants for operating licenses shall establish controls to prevent situations where fatigue could reduce the ability of operating personnel to keep the reactor in a safe condition. The controls should focus on shift staffing and the use of overtime—key job-related factors that influence fatigue.

The objective of the controls would be to assure that, to the extent practicable, personnel are not assigned to shift duties while in a fatigued condition that could significantly reduce their mental alertness or their decision making capability. The controls shall apply to the plant staff who perform safety-related functions (e.g., senior reactor operators, reactor operators, health physicists, auxiliary operators, and key maintenance personnel).

Enough plant operating personnel should be employed to maintain adequate shift coverage without routine heavy use of overtime. The objective is to have operating personnel work a

normal 8-hour day, 40-hour week while the plant is operating. However, in the event that unforeseen problems require substantial amounts of overtime to be used, or during extended periods of shutdown for refueling, major maintenance or major plant modifications, on a temporary basis, the following guidelines shall be followed:

a. An individual should not be permitted to work more than 16 hours straight (excluding shift turnover time).

b. An individual should not be permitted to work more than 16 hours in any 24-hour period, nor more than 24 hours in any 48-hour period nor more than 72 hours in any seven day period (all excluding shift turnover time).

c. A break of at least eight hours should be allowed between work periods (including shift turnover time).

d. Except during extended shutdown periods, the use of overtime should be considered on an individual basis and not for the entire staff on a shift.

Recognizing that very unusual circumstances may arise requiring deviation from the above guidelines, such deviation shall be authorized by the plant manager or his deputy, or higher levels of management. The paramount consideration in such authorization shall be that significant reductions in the effectiveness of operating personnel would be highly unlikely.

In addition, procedures are encouraged that would allow licensed operators at the controls to be periodically relieved and assigned to other duties away from the control board during their tour of duty.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
 Mr. Lawrence P. Crocker, (301) 492-8357.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 25th day of May, 1982.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
**John A. Zwellmald,**  
*Acting Chief, Licensee Qualifications Branch,*  
*Division of Human Factors Safety.*

(FR Doc. 82-1427 Filed 5-25-82; 9:41 am)  
BILLING CODE 7000-01-0

### South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Memorandum of Agreement Related to Use of Third Party Data and Regulation of NRC Licensee-Shippers of Radioactive Waste to the Barnwell Facility

The Memorandum of Agreement published below describes the cooperative regulatory policy being implemented by the NRC and the State of South Carolina with regard to enforcement activities at the low-level

radioactive waste disposal facility located at Snelling, South Carolina. The basis for this Memorandum of Agreement are two-fold: (1) The Office of the Executive Legal Director, NRC, recently determined that information gathered by South Carolina State Inspectors can be used by the NRC in enforcement actions against NRC licensees; (2) Pursuant to the provisions of the South Carolina Radioactive Waste Transportation and Disposal Act of 1980, (Act No. 429), the State enhanced control over the shipment of radioactive waste into and within the State, and intensified its enforcement actions.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
 Robert E. Trojanowski, Regional State Liaison Officer, Telephone 604-221-8597, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Rm. 101 Marietta St., N.W., Suite 3100, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.  
 Dated at Atlanta, Georgia this 17th day of May 1982.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
**James P. O'Reilly,**  
*Regional Administrator, Region II.*

### Memorandum of Agreement Between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, Related to the Use of Third Party Data and the Regulation of NRC Licensee-Shippers of Radioactive Waste to the Barnwell Facility; Background

The Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc. (CNSI) low level radioactive waste disposal facility located at Snelling, South Carolina, has been in operation since 1971. Both the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) have responsibilities for the regulation of NRC licensees who ship radioactive waste to the disposal facility. NRC's regulatory authority is derived from the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as amended, and the regulations implementing these Acts contained in 10 CFR 71.5. South Carolina, an agreement State, derives its regulatory authority from the applicable State regulations which are compatible with the Federal regulations cited above.

CNSI operations are regulated under both a South Carolina agreement State license and an NRC license which authorizes the receipt and burial of special nuclear material (SNM) in quantities greater than authorized under State jurisdiction. Both DHEC and the NRC conduct routine periodic inspection for those portions of site operations

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Sincerely,

Original Signed By:  
James M. Taylor

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Acting Executive Director  
for Operations

Enclosure:  
As stated

~~"This correspondence addresses policy issues previously resolved by the Commission, transmits factual information, or restates Commission policy."~~

ADT:NRR\*  
FMiraglia  
10/26/89

\*See Previous Concurrences  
Document Name: GREEN TICKET 4809

FC	:RFAB:DLPQ*	:TECH ED*	: DD:DLPQ*	:D:DLPQ*	:D:NRR*	:EDD
AME	:Shankman/Regan/mf	:BCalure	:COTomas	:JWRoe	:Sniezek/Murley	:JTaylor
ATE	:10/23/89	:10/23/89	:10/24/89	:10/24/89	:10/27/89	:10/27/89