



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

CENTRAL FILES

APR 15 1977

Docket No. 50-329
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Consumers Power Company
ATTN: Mr. Stephen H. Howell
Vice President
1945 West Parnall Road
Jackson, MI 49201

Gentlemen:

This letter is to solicit your cooperation in a matter that is of concern to me.

In the construction and operation of nuclear facilities and other activities licensed by the NRC, a worker occasionally has concerns about the quality of work, radiological safety or safeguards at the facility. I recognize that in these cases you desire that the individual first approach his supervision and management. However, in our experience some individuals are hesitant or feel frustrated in such contacts.

Because of this frustration or hesitation, I believe that the Office of Inspection and Enforcement should make known its direct accessibility to the worker. I recently have instructed inspectors to wear, as appropriate, distinctive "hard hats" and identification badges so that they can be more readily identified during an inspection.

I believe it will be advantageous also to have posted a notice informing your workers that the Regional Offices of the Office of Inspection and Enforcement will accept collect telephone calls for discussions of matters which are under NRC jurisdiction and which are of concern to them. Pending a change in 10 CFR Part 19 (Form NRC - 3), I request your cooperation in posting copies of the enclosed notice in a sufficient number of places so that individuals may observe a notice on their way to and from their work locations.

I know that we share mutual interest about quality, safety and safeguards. I hope you will agree that these interests can best be served by assuring that workers know of our interest and know of avenues for the expression of their concerns so that prompt consideration can be given to their concerns.

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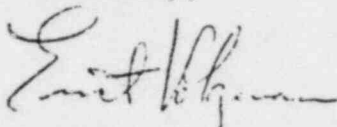
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I would appreciate it if you would inform me of your intentions concerning this request. If you have questions or desire to discuss the matter, please contact Mr. J. G. Keppler, Regional Director of our Region III office.

Sincerely,



Ernst Volgenau
Director
Office of Inspection
and Enforcement

Enclosure:
Notice to Employees

cc w/encl:
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OFFICE	RIII	RIII	RIII	RIII	RIII	
SURNAME	Fiorelli/ib	Heishman	Allen	Hind	Keppler	
DATE	4/12/77	4/13			4/13/77	

NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES

Any nuclear industry worker who has concerns or questions about the nuclear safety of any facility or activity licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission may bring these matters to the attention of an NRC inspector or the nearest NRC Regional Office if they cannot be resolved directly with his or her employer. The NRC will treat the identity of a worker as a confidential source if the worker requests that his identity not be disclosed.

In order to improve channels of communication between NRC and Nuclear industry workers, the NRC is making two procedural changes:

1. NRC inspectors will soon be wearing identification badges and, in some cases, safety hats identifying them as NRC inspectors.
2. NRC Regional Offices will accept collect telephone calls from nuclear industry workers who wish to speak with an NRC representative concerning quality of work, radiological safety or safeguards problems. The telephone number of the appropriate NRC Regional Office for this project is 312-858-2660.

These changes will be reflected in a revised NRC Form 3 posted to meet requirements of 10 CFR Part 19 and a revision of proposed 10 CFR Part 21 (both of which are in preparation). Until these revisions are published, all workers at NRC-licensed facilities or activities should be aware of these improved channels of communication with inspectors.