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Pollution & Environmental Problems, Inc.  
P.O. Box 309  
Palatine, Illinois 60067  
March 12, 1981

Mr. Harold Denton  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington DC, 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

As you well know, the utilities you regulate can sue the NRC if they believe they have been poorly regulated. The irony of General Public Utilities charging the NRC with failure to alert TMI operators to a similar incident at a plant in Toledo, Ohio is a case in point.

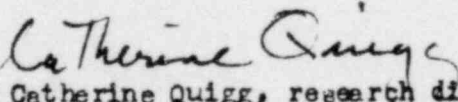
This same accusation of failure to regulate could some day be leveled at the NRC if a serious accident occurs because of the misbehavior of a nuclear station employee. The enclosed clipping describes two Zion Nuclear Station employees using drugs while on duty at that plant.

The citizens in this area believe the NRC, chief regulator of the nuclear industry, should see that only the strictest screening, hiring practices and codes of conduct are maintained by all employees at a nuclear power station, not just the security guards. If an accident were to happen as a result of a worker's drug use, for example, the health and safety of millions in the Chicago area would be at stake.

We urgently recommend that the Federal Code of Regulations be revised to include new regulations concerning a utility's hiring practices, minimum job requirements, an employees' code of conduct and penalties for nonconformance.

For the NRC to tolerate the current laxity and lawlessness among nuclear workers is to invite accidents, injuries, public condemnation and possible lawsuits against the NRC.

Sincerely,

  
Catherine Quigg, research director  
Pollution & Environmental Problems, Inc.  
(312/381-6695)

cc: Joseph Hendrie  
Victor Stello

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# ComEd denies extensive drug use at Zion

By MARCIA NICKOW

A Commonwealth Edison spokesman said Tuesday that an "internal investigation" at the Zion nuclear plant has contradicted claims by police that many employees there have used and sold drugs while on duty.

Spokesman John Hogan said company representatives spoke to "impartial" law enforcement agencies as part of the inside probe, launched after Zion police Feb. 24 arrested two valve operators on drug charges.

Hogan declined to say which law enforcement groups the utility had consulted.

"Everything we've learned bears out our initial reading of the situation," Hogan said.

Two days after the Zion drug arrests, he said the company was "reasonably certain" no other employees have used or sold drugs within the plant, according to wire service accounts.

Asked if he was implying that Zion police and the North Shore Metropolitan Enforcement Group (MEG), an undercover drug unit that assisted Zion police, have exaggerated their findings, Hogan said, "I'm not going to make that accusation."

**DRUG UNIT DIRECTOR** Lawrence Mulcrone this week reaffirmed an earlier statement that "intelligence" indicates more than 25 employees at the plant have used or sold marijuana, cocaine or amphetamines while on duty.

The employees include valve operators, lab technicians and supervisory and management personnel, he said.

Police will not allow Commonwealth Edison to "pooh-pooh" the continuing investigation, said Mulcrone.

Mulcrone and other MEG agents are scheduled to meet Friday with Zion police to discuss further efforts.

**ARRESTED OUTSIDE** the main gate of the nuclear station Feb. 24 during their lunch hour were Jeffrey J. Kostroski, 23, of Waukegan, and Scott A. Klepzig, 22, of Kenosha, Wis. Both men have been suspended from their jobs.

Kostroski was charged with selling cocaine to an undercover MEG agent on three dates — Feb. 6, 13 and 24. Klepzig was charged with possession of marijuana.

Kostroski had been training to become a control room operator.

Utility spokesman Hogan said that if Zion police and MEG have "additional information," Commonwealth Edison would like to have it, too.

"I wish they would put their cards on the table," he said. "We have nothing to go on other than rumors and vague generalities."

But he added, "We can't expect them to jeopardize a continuing investigation, especially if it's being done undercover."

**HOGAN SAID THE** company has "tightened supervision" at the plant after last week's arrests.

"Supervisors are being instructed to be

more vigilant than ever in their observation of (employees)."

While Commonwealth Edison has cast doubt on claims by police that drug use within the Zion plant has been extensive, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is taking a wait-and-see attitude.

Russ Marabito, NRC spokesman in Chicago, said the agency does not plan to conduct an investigation of its own.

"We can only go on the facts," he said. "All we're talking about at this point is two people."

"We are a regulating and licensing agency; we are not law enforcement," he added.

**A 500-MEMBER** North Shore anti-nuclear group, Citizens Opposed to Radioactive Pollution, sent a letter Monday to James G. Keppler, NRC regional director. The letter asked the NRC to investigate "hiring practices and management" at the Zion plant.

Mariam Lee Targ, a spokeswoman for the group, said members are concerned that the use of drugs may cause "human error," which, in turn, could lead to nuclear accidents.

Last May, the NRC reported that the Zion plant released radioactive gas because "a valve was mistakenly opened" by an employee. Only a small amount of radioactivity was released — insufficient to affect operations, the agency said.

**KEPPLER WAS** unavailable for comment on the anti-nuclear group's letter, but

Marabito said he doubted the NRC would conduct the investigation requested by the anti-nuclear group.

"We can't tell them (Commonwealth Edison) who they can or can't hire," he said. "We've got to be careful that we just don't simply go outside our jurisdiction. There are some things that are just beyond the purview of the NRC."

"The NRC's primary function is to make sure that any nuclear plant is operating as safely as is humanly possible," said Marabito. "That's our concern. Anything involving safety we would examine under a microscope."

Marabito noted that the NRC tests and licenses control room operator trainees and also requires that security personnel, who have access to areas where "key equipment" is stored, undergo background investigations.

Marabito said the NRC responded to the drug arrests by assigning additional inspectors to the plant "on-and-off" through Sunday.

"They didn't find any irregularities or threats to safety," he said. "They saw nothing indicating a problem with performance. The plant is being operated safely."

Two NRC inspectors are assigned to the plant full-time.

**ZION POLICE CHIEF** Norman Lee said Tuesday the NRC has asked police for further information on the findings of the drug investigation, but Commonwealth Edison has not.