



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

AUG 5 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Victor Stello, Jr., Director  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

SUBJECT: TMI, UNIT 1 - INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED CHEATING ON  
OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION

As you know, IE initiated an investigation of this subject after being notified that marked similarities between examination papers submitted by two licensed operators who took both the reactor operator (RO) and senior reactor operator (SRO) examinations in April, 1981 led an exam grader to suspect collusion between those two individuals. Accordingly, IE began its investigation on July 24, 1981, with the purpose of establishing whether or not the two individuals in question cheated on the April examinations. The investigation was also to determine whether there was any evidence of cheating by other operators or applicants during the examination in question. We have essentially completed our investigation and a report is in preparation. The following information is provided for your use in advance of publication of that report:

- 1) A review of the RO/SRO examination papers submitted by the two suspect individuals, both of whom were assigned to shift supervisor positions, led both my staff and me to conclude that the degree of similarity could only be a product of cheating by these individuals. Additionally, due to the length of the examinations and the conditions under which they were administered, we concluded that such cheating could not take place without the knowledge, if not the active involvement, of both persons.
- 2) Both individuals made sworn statements acknowledging that cheating took place.
- 3) Although our investigation did not deal directly with the issue of the quality of the proctoring during the examinations, comments made by persons interviewed indicated that some sessions of both examinations were essentially unproctored for extended periods of time. On the other hand, the interviewees indicated that the sessions wherein the above-described cheating did take place received virtually 100 percent coverage by NRC proctors.

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4) Our efforts to determine whether other cheating took place consisted of interviews of eleven other persons taking the examinations, including all of those who failed them, as well as a review of all the examination papers to attempt to detect any other marked similarities. None of these efforts yielded any evidence of any other cheating during the examinations in question.

5) Our investigative efforts produced no evidence that, except for the involvement of the two operators discussed above, the utility either knew of the cheating prior to the NRC becoming aware of it, or attempted in any way to facilitate cheating by any of its employees.

We were informed by the utility on August 4, 1981, that it has terminated one of the two employees. Action on the second individual will be considered by the company at a later date. Accordingly, we have informed the terminated individual that he is no longer authorized to conduct licensed activities under his license. NRC action on the second individual will be determined following any company action. We have attached a copy of GPU's letter dated August 4, 1981, on this matter.

We will provide you a copy of the report of investigation and any related documentation as soon as possible. I would anticipate that the report will be ready by August 14, 1981.

  
Victor Stello, Jr., Director  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

Enclosure:

Ltr to VS fm Arnold dtd 8/4/81