

DATE: December 19, 1981

TO: Director of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

FROM: Catherine Quigg, research director
Pollution & Environmental Problems, Inc.
P.O. Box 309, Palatine, Illinois 60067
(312/381-6695)

RE: Security Guard Allegations on NBC-Television (Chicago) on Dec. 16-17-18
Formal Petition Under Section 2.202 of the Code of Federal Regulations

On December 16, 17 and 18, 1981, newsmen Paul Hagan of NBC-Television in Chicago aired some of his seventeen interviews with seven current and ten former security guards at the Dresden and Zion nuclear power stations. The guards were masked, voices disguised and unidentified to prevent retaliation or loss of jobs. The allegations of these guards are serious and pertain not only to security guards at these plants--but also to certain Commonwealth Edison and contractor employees. The allegations are as follows:

DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION

Drug Use

More than one guard alleged seeing guards and Commonwealth Edison employees with marijuana and pills. One guard said he saw a guard at the control room door snorting cocaine.

Drug Sale

Guard said: "It was known at one time that a supervisor (at Dresden) was selling drugs."

Breakdown in Management

Guard who said he saw a guard using cocaine at the control room door also said he reported the incident to his supervisor--and the supervisor said, "Let it go."

One guard said that when misbehavior is reported, Burns guards always get in trouble and Commonwealth Edison employees "get off."

Alcohol Use

One guard charged that alcohol use is prevalent, especially when it's cold outside. Guard charged he had seen employees "pretty well on their way" to being drunk in what he considered critical areas of the plant.

Guard said some people are "known to leave the security area, go out to their vehicle, take another drink, and come back for a while." Guard said there are known alcoholics that work there.

Guard said he had seen guards issued weapons who were in an inebriated state. Guard said, "I've seen supervisors come in drunk."

DRESDEN (continued)

Inattentiveness to Duty

Guard said employees have been caught asleep on the control panel.

Guard said he had seen a female security guard and Commonwealth Edison employee engaged in sexual activity on the fuel room floor.

ZION NUCLEAR STATION

Alcohol Use

Guard said, "One guy'll bring hash, one guy'll bring vodka" in their thermos bottles..."they don't check thermos bottles."

Inattentiveness to Duty

Guard said sexual intercourse or oral sex takes place right in the plant (i.e. steam tunnel). He said, "People who have partaken in it have bragged to me about it."

Drug Use

Paul Egan's report on December 18 revealed that a Zion police investigation in February 1981 led the police to suspect drug abuse was widespread at Zion. The Zion Police Chief, Norman Lee, said he had 25 possible leads on workers who took drugs in and out of the Zion nuclear power station. The Zion Mayor, John Spencer, after receiving this information, requested a widespread drug probe and an undercover investigation in a meeting with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The NRC said they had no evidence of the existence of drug problems at Zion and the Police Chief said the NRC "told us basically to go away and leave them alone."

ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO DRESDEN AND ZION NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS

Inadequate Training

Guard said nuclear guards are not prepared to repel terrorist attacks. Guard said in case of assault, they will run, duck or takeoff.

Guard said there had been no drills to combat terrorist entry into the nuclear plants. Guard said he had a hard time holding a shotgun and couldn't load it "unless somebody shows me." He said he couldn't chamber the shell because, "I can't get the thing open right."

Guard said someone fired his gun in the gun range so he could qualify for his security job--and that this was considered common practice.

DRESDEN/ZION (continued)

Inadequate Equipment

Guard said that majority of terrorists use automatic weapons and "we have no automatic weapons, only 38s (38 caliber pistols)"...and "we have no automatic weapons or training in defense against automatic weapons attack."

Because terrorists will be better equipped with automatic weapons, one guard said a terrorist group could make entry at Dresden in two minutes. Another said that an outside force could take over the plant in ten minutes maximum time and "we'd be dead."

Guard said, "Anything you need to take over the plant, you can get from within it." (This should cause concern about takeover by inside forces.)

At least three guards that were interviewed said they would not resist an armed attack. One said he would run "as fast as my little legs would take me." Another said: "I, myself, would not give myself up just to hold somebody back for five minutes." A third guard said that in discussion with other guards regarding what they would do, "they said they would take off, run...they're not going to stand in front of an automatic weapon."

The people of Illinois, living near these facilities, assume the Nuclear Regulatory Commission exercises the utmost care, surveillance and good judgment in allowing these plants to operate. We urge the NRC, with public safety as its goal, to strongly consider closing the Zion and Dresden nuclear power plants--at least until a thorough investigation of all allegations has been completed. Only the NRC has that power and that responsibility.

THEREFORE: Pollution and Environmental Problems, Inc., representing certain residents of the Zion Nuclear Station and Dresden Nuclear Station emergency planning areas and radioactive fallout zones hereby requests that the Director of Inspection and Enforcement institute a proceeding pursuant to Section 2.202 of the Code of Federal Regulations to show cause why the Nuclear Regulatory Commission should not close down the Zion and Dresden Nuclear Power Stations--at least until a thorough and independent investigation of all allegations has been completed and answered to the satisfaction of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the concerned public.

Sincerely yours,

Catherine Quigg

Catherine Quigg, research director
Pollution and Environmental Problems, Inc.
P.O. Box 309, Palatine, Illinois 60067
(312/381-6695)

Docket Nos. 50-10, 50-237, 50-249
50-295, 50-304

(10 CFR 2.206)

Ms. Catherine Quigg,
Research Director
Pollution & Environmental Problems, Inc.
P.O. Box 309
Palatine, Illinois 60067

Dear Ms. Quigg:

This letter is sent to acknowledge receipt of your request that I institute a proceeding pursuant to 10 CFR 2.202 to show cause why the Dresden and Zion stations should not be shut down pending an investigation of allegations regarding malfeasance on the part of security personnel at the facilities. Your request is being considered under 10 CFR 2.206.

The NRC has already initiated an investigation . . .

(Region III and OIE to supply enough factual information justifying their position on petitioner's request for immediate action.)

I enclose for your information a copy of the notice that is being filed for publication with the Office of the Federal Register.

Sincerely,

Richard C. DeYoung
Director, Office of
Inspection & Enforcement

cc: Commonwealth Edison Company
w/incoming petition

[7590-01]

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-10, 50-237, 50-249,
50-295, 50-304]

Commonwealth Edison Co.

(Dresden Station, Units 1-3;
Zion Station, Units 1 & 2)

Receipt of Request Under 10 CFR 2.206

Notice is hereby given that the Office of Inspection and Enforcement has under consideration a petition filed by Catherine Quigg on behalf of Pollution and Environmental Problems, Inc., which requests issuance of an order to show cause why operation of the Dresden and Zion stations should not be suspended on the basis of alleged malfeasance by security and other personnel. The petition is being treated pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206 and, accordingly, appropriate action will be taken within a reasonable time.

Copies of the petition are available for public inspection in the Commission's public document room at 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555, and in the local public document rooms for the Dresden and Zion stations at the Morris Public Library, 604 Liberty Street, Morris, Illinois 60451, and the Zion-Benton Public Library, 2600 Emmaus Avenue, Zion, Illinois 60099.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this

day of January, 1982.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Richard C. DeYoung
Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement