

OCT 09 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR: David C. Williams, Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General

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FROM: Frank J. Congel, Director
Division of Radiation Protection
and Emergency Preparedness
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: PRIVATE CITIZEN'S CONCERN REGARDING IMPROPER
ACTIONS BY HEALTH PHYSICS INSPECTORS

On July 7, 1990, we received a copy of a letter from a former NRC employee stating concerns that certain health physics (HP) inspectors were taking improper actions during their inspections. On July 20, 1990, we forwarded a copy of his letter to you and stated we would request him to provide specific information to support his concerns. On July 26, 1990, we sent such a letter to him and distributed a copy to you. In that letter, we stated he could provide the information in writing or arrange a meeting with us. He chose the option for a meeting.

The meeting was held at OWFN on September 5, 1990. In attendance were: Mr. R. Alexander; Dr. F. Congel, NRR; Mr. L. Cunningham, NRR; and Mr. D. Collins, RII. Mr. Alexander stated that his concern evolved from statements made by industry representatives who attended training courses he was conducting. He stated that the comments by industry representatives were given orally in class and that his views were not based on private conversations or written correspondence to him. Additionally, Mr. Alexander did not have any specific examples that he could relate. The only specific information related to us was his reference to a paper on total work risk that was presented at the Health Physics Society Mid-Year Meeting in Atlantic City, New Jersey in February 1990. We obtained a copy of the paper entitled, "Optimizing Worker Protection: The Practical Application of Risk Analysis." Our review of the paper and telephone discussion with the author, Mr. Michael Williams, did not produce any case-specific information that could be pursued.

Our conclusion is that we were not provided with any specific examples of improper actions on the part of HP inspectors nor of specific cases where radiological protection of workers or plant safety was jeopardized as a result of inspector actions. We, therefore, plan no further follow-up action on Mr. Alexander's letter.

Original signed by Frank J. Congel

Frank J. Congel, Director
Division of Radiation Protection
and Emergency Preparedness
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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NAME : LJC:Cunningham:mgc:FJCongel

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D. Collins, RII, concurred
via phone 10/9/90
(per J. Cunningham)
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