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*Review work
for Action
W.S.*

February 1, 1991

Mr. A. Bert Davis
Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Subject: Quad Cities Station Investigation
of NRC Allegation RIII-90-A-116
NRC Docket Nos. 50-254 and 50-265

Reference: C.E. Norelius to Cordell Reed letter
dated December 18, 1990.

Mr. Davis:

The referenced letter requested that Commonwealth Edison provide a summary and conclusion of our investigation for the allegation contained in the referenced letter (NRC Allegation RIII-90-A-0116). The attached provides the requested information.

After thorough investigation, Commonwealth Edison determined that the allegation did not constitute a credible threat to the facility. In addition to the investigation, Commonwealth Edison reviewed the working hours for the Shift Engineer (SE). The review demonstrated that the SE worked a normal work schedule during the period 10/29 - 11/10/90. The SE was on vacation on 10/31/90 and 11/1/90.

The information contained in the attached contains no personal privacy, proprietary or safeguards information.

Please address any questions to this office.

Very truly yours,

T.J. Kovach
Nuclear Licensing Manager

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PDR ADOCK 05000254
P PDR

cc: W.D. Shafer, Branch Chief, Region III
T. Taylor, Senior Resident Inspector

RS:TK:lmw
lmw:2HLD524/19

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ATTACHMENT

Response to NRC Allegation RIII-90-A-0116

Introduction

This responds to your request regarding the subject allegation. Several actions were taken in response to the allegation:

1. On November 10, 1990, the subject of the allegation was temporarily transferred from his Shift Engineer duties until the allegation could be investigated completely and a sound determination of its disposition made,
2. the allegation was investigated thoroughly by interviewing the allegor, individuals with whom he had spoken and the subject of the allegation,
3. the work and health record of the shift engineer were professionally reviewed and a psychological evaluation was completed which demonstrated that he was emotionally stable,
4. the overall circumstances of the allegation were evaluated and it was determined that the allegation was not credible; accordingly,
5. the individual was returned to his duties on November 14, 1990.

In reaching the conclusion that the allegation did not constitute a credible threat, CECo was sensitive to the presence of facts which could support a finding that the subject of the allegation might have been under stress. Accordingly, CECo not only reviewed all available documentary evidence bearing on this issue but also performed a psychological evaluation of the individual. The evaluations showed that the individual was emotionally stable and, thus, corroborated his denial of ever having made a threatening statement. Moreover, the circumstance of the allegor's relationship with the subject of the allegation cast substantial doubt on the credibility of the allegation. Accordingly, the individual was returned to his duties. The details supporting this decision follows.

Facts

The allegation under consideration was made to the NRC by the brother of a CECo employee who is a shift engineer (SE) at Quad Cities. The circumstances leading to the allegation are summarized below.

On Friday, November 9, the allegor and his brother, the SE, had argued by telephone over family matters. During that argument, the allegor claimed the SE made threatening statements about the nuclear facility where he worked.

The allegor took this threat seriously because he believed that the SE was under stress from his job. Accordingly, the allegor called an old acquaintance who worked at a nuclear power plant to find out to whom he should report his concerns. The plant worker suggested calling the state police. The allegor called the police and was told that they would not act until something had actually occurred. Thereupon, the allegor called the plant worker a second time. This time the worker responded by calling the NRC Resident Inspector (RI) at the plant where he worked.

The NRC/RI called the allegor and then called NRC Headquarters. Thereafter, slightly after midnight, the NRC/RI and the NRC Duty Officer called the On-Duty SE at Quad Cities. The On-Duty SE then notified the Quad Cities Station Security Administrator (SSA) of the call. The SSA put an administrative hold on the SE's badge. Senior station and corporate management and the NRC/RI for Quad Cities were notified of this precautionary action. The SSA called the NRC/RI for more information on the morning of November 10th. A joint investigation was then begun by the SSA and Corporate Security Department.

Investigation

CECo's investigation of the allegation is summarized below. That investigation raised significant doubts about the credibility of the source of the allegation. Nevertheless, because certain facts could have indicated that the allegation might have some bases, CECO also investigated the substance of the allegation. That investigation showed that the allegations were unfounded. Accordingly, CECO concluded that the threat was not credible.

CECo's investigation began on November 10 when the Quad Cities SSA contacted the NRC/RI for details about the allegation. The NRC/RI reported that the allegor had stated that he had an argument with the SE only a few hours before making the allegation.

The CECO investigation identified that the SE had required a second attempt to complete the license qualification test.

Because these circumstances indicated a potential for stress, the shift engineer's interview on November 12 focused on his views of the allegation. He acknowledged the disagreement with the allegor but denied having made any of the statements identified by the allegor as the cause for concern.

A retrospective review of the SE's records showed that he had been a long-standing and loyal employee with a good work record. His medical records were reviewed by the Medical Review Officer (MRO) and revealed nothing unusual.

Additional investigations into the nature and validity of the allegations were conducted on November 13. The midwest nuclear power plant worker was contacted and interviewed. The worker related his two phone conversations with the alleged. Because the worker could not determine the validity of the alleged's allegation, he called the NRC/RI.

CECo again contacted the NRC/RI. The RI stated that the alleged had expressed concern over his brother's statements and that he appeared to be under stress. The NRC/RI concluded that the alleged and his brother had quarreled, and their relationship was strained.

With this background in hand, the alleged was interviewed on November 13. He acknowledged the disagreement with his brother. He also stated his belief that his brother had been under stress and that his personality had changed lately. During the interview, he focussed on the circumstances regarding his argument with his brother. The disagreement was centered on disposition of family assets.

To evaluate the interview statements by the alleged, the SE was interviewed again on November 13. The SE acknowledged that he and his brother had strained relations and that he may have told his brother about failing the requal test. The SE again denied ever having made the threatening statements which is the statement of concern. The SE was co-operative and offered any assistance which would be required to resolve this issue.

Once again, because the facts indicated a potential for stress, that issue was investigated further. On November 14, the SE was interviewed by an MRO and a psychological evaluation was performed. No evidence of emotional instability was found.

The results of this interview and evaluation reinforced the SE's prior record and indicated that his situation at the time of the allegation would not have led him to make the claimed statements. Further, the overall circumstances indicated a significant doubt regarding the credibility of the allegation. For these reasons, no threat was considered credible and the SE was returned to duty. Since then, no further allegations have been delivered regarding the SE's statements.

ZNLD624/19-21