

## OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON

## MEMORANDUM

DATE:

August 2, 1994

TO:

Secretary of the Commission Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20555

Enclosed is a letter from a constituent concerning a matter related to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. This information was sent to the office of Vice President Gore.

On behalf of the Vice President, I am forwarding this material with the request that the issues be addressed in an appropriate and expeditious manner. An acknowledgement of receipt and a notification of this referral has been sent.

Please respond directly to the correspondent. No reply to this office is necessary.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Bill Mason

Director of Correspondence for the Vice President

BM/wem Enclosure

NRC Vice President Al Gore Shaun Stenshol The White House P.O. Box 684694 Washington DC 20500 Dear Al, Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter I'm sending to

Austin TX 78768-4694

members of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and a news article which recently appeared in the Houston Chronicle.

It is my sincerest wishes that something can finally be done about the dangerous South Texas Nuclear Plant. It's well established that the plant is not safe nor financially viable. I hope you can be of some help.

Sincerely,

Shaun Stenshol

MAY 23 1991

. . . .

It seems to me that while your Subcommittee is investigating allegations involving safety deficiencies, worker harassment and intimidation, document falsification and other critical plant operations, it would be in the public interest to shut down STNP.

the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to act properly on

complaints by whistle blowers.

In 1987 the Government Accountability Project (GAP), a group that provides legal help to whistle-blowers, investigated several whistle-blower allegations at STNP. They presented their findings of over 700 allegations to the NRC with the hope that NRC would conduct a painstaking investigation before the plant received its full-power license. The NRC did investigate what became known as the GAP allegations. And people who prepared the GAP case say the investigation was a mockery, a waste of NRC's last and best chance to see that the plant was built correctly.

But the NRC is also under investigation. And that doesn't surprise me. They have shown "No Real Concern" about the serious problems at STNP. I have been to two NRC public hearings (which are only open for public observation, not public input) on STNP and have listened to Joe Callan (NRC Region IV Administrator) talk about how mistakes that continue to occur at STNP should not be happening because of all the redundant barriers that are built into the plant. And after he gets done slapping HL&P on the wrist for their wrong doings, he gives them the okay to continue business as usual. I get the feeling that NRC is just a puppet agency to the nuclear industry.

We can't just sit by and watch another Three Mile Island or Chernobyl happen. Do everything in your power to shut down STNP at least while you're conducting the investigation.

HL&P is going to do everything in their power to keep the plant on-line, regardless of safety. As a recent quote from Graham Painter, chief press spokesperson for HL&P, would

indicate: "I believe the (STNP) plant will operate well. That's the line and we're sticking to it": Houston Business Journal, March 21 1994.

Sincerely,

Shaun Stenshol

cc: Members of the Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations of the Committee on Energy and Commerce: John Dingell, Mich. (Chairperson), Sherwood Brown, Ohio, Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, Penn., Henry Waxman, Cal., Cardiss Collins, Ill., Ron Wyden, Oregon, John Bryant, Tex., Dan Schaefer, Colo., Carlos Moorhead, Cal., Joe Barton, Tex., Fred Upton, Mich.,

U.S. Rep. Jake Pickle, U.S. Senator Phil Gramm, U.S. Senator Kay Hutchison, President Bill Clinton,

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## Houston Chronicle Friday, May 6, 1994 Section A, Page 33

News & Features



A congressional subcommittee is investigating allegations of document falsification, worker harassment and intimidation at the South Texas nuclear power plant.

Also being probed are allegations that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission failed to act properly on complaints by whistle blowers who were trying to alert regulators to serious problems at the troubled plant near Bay City in Matagorda County

U.S. Rep. John P. Dingeli, D. Mich., chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, has requested Houston Lighting & Power officials to produce documents pertaining to the allegations by

HL&P spokesman Graham Painter said it

appears that all the issues touched on by the letter have been addressed and resolved.

HL&P is the managing partner of the power plant. Other owners are Central Power & Light in Corpus Christi and the cities of San Antonio and

In a letter dated

Dingell April 26 to Don Jordan, HL&P's chairman and chief executive officer. Dingell cited four areas of concern that the subcommittee is investigating

M Severe deficiencies in the plant's quality assurance and quality control program.

m Instances of document and procedure falsification and fraud.

m Worker harassment and intimidation by plant management.

Problems related to safety and security of the plant

A subcommittee staff member, who asked not to be named, said the allegations

See STNP on Page 35A

other unrelated investigaated in other unr

lacking such resources as an adequate work force and equipment, the review problems at the plant dating to the 1980s and will look for evidence of a pattern that the facility has been "run on the cheap, The subcommittee staff member said. etter, said Painter, and will cooper-

A hearing on the plant could held later this year or early 1995, Another item the subcommittee is examining is why the agency didn't lems that led to the February 1993 step in quicker to resolve the probate fully with the committee. shutdown of both reactors.

have the ability to run this thing well institutionally HL&P and the NRC enough after we go away because we "What we want to know is whether won't be looking at this forever,"

NRC spokesman Joe Gilliland of Arlington said the agency plans to mation it needs, noting it has cooperprovide the committee all the inforsubcommittee member said.

"I'm pleased they are doing it," ne said. "I only regret that it didn't happen two years ago when this was fresh on everybody's mind."

management team and more than a year of being idle, Unit 1 returned to returned to service for the first time Feb. 25, but was shut down again three days later by the steam generator leak. It began generating power After a change in the HL&P's 00 percent power on April 8. Unit 1 again March 22 be

Unit 2 is scheduled to return to commercial service May 22.

> plant worker who turned whistle plower and then was laid off, said he

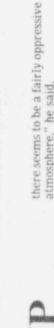
was one of several former employcommittee staffers about three

interviewed at length

David Lamb of Houston, a former

The subcommittee has no regulatory authority, but because of its stature, the hearings — or any report it might issue - would draw attention and thus could result in changes





Continued from Page 33A.

deal with past and present problems and were gathered during interviews conducted with former and current

employees.

HL&P has received

One area of concern, he said, was craftsmen sign for maintenance work performed by uncertified workers, making it appear on paper hat the certified personnel did the based on interviews and complaints "I can't get any more specific, but filed by former employees, he said The harassment allegations having he practice of