

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

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April 21, 1983

Mr. Benjamin Hayes
Director
Office of Investigations
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Mr. James O'Reilly
Regional Administrator, Region II
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta Street, N. W., Suite 3100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Gentlemen:

The Government Accountability Project (GAP) of the Institute for Policy Studies has recently received a request from a citizens group in South Carolina to assist them with an investigation that they are conducting into the quality assurance and quality control procedures that have been employed in the construction of the Catawba Nuclear Power Station being built by the Duke Power Corporation.

The material that we have reviewed in connection with the request has raised serious questions about the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) oversight of problems that have been brought to the attention of both the resident and regional inspectors and investigators.

Of particular concern to us are the allegations that were brought to the attention of the NRC regional office in January 1982 by a number of QC welding inspection personnel, and more specifically the direct orders by Duke construction management to falsify inspection documents. These circumstances raise critical questions about the conditions at the Catawba facility under which conscientious nuclear employees -- from welders to engineers -- are allowed to do their job. (See attachment 1.)

The comments originally presented by Mr. P. K. Van Doorn, the Senior Resident Inspector, have apparently been fully investigated and dismissed through a utility task force (attachment 2); however, we have requested through the Freedom of Information Act all NRC documentation that should clarify the results of any inspections or investigations that were conducted by the NRC as a result of the original allegations.

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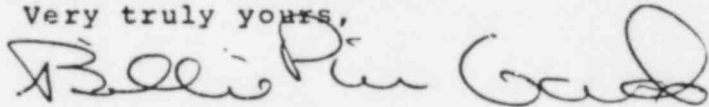
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We request that the Office of Investigations conduct a complete review of: (1) the original allegations and (2) any investigations of those allegations. We think that such a review by OI is particularly appropriate due to Mr. VanDoorn's and Mr. W. J. Tobin's initial reports include serious evidence of harassment, intimidation and deliberate undermining of the welding QC program.

As you are aware, the concerns of worker harassment and intimidation and similar allegations of violations of the Atomic Energy Reorganization Act alleged by the unnamed sources referred to in the attached documents mirror the findings that GAP discovered at the Zimmer Nuclear Power Station in Ohio, the Midland Nuclear Power Plant in Michigan, and, most recently, the Three Mile Island cleanup operations in Pennsylvania.

We look forward to your response to this request in the near future.

Very truly yours,



BILLIE PIRNER GARDE
Director, Citizens Clinic
for Accountable Government

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Attachments