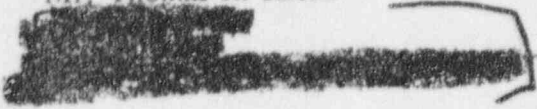




UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
475 ALLENDALE ROAD
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406-1415

FEB 21 1992

Mr. Thomas R. Hicks



Dear Mr. Hicks:

I am responding to your letter to Senator Arlen Specter, in which you expressed concerns with NRC regulations regarding the conduct of industrial radiography. You pointed out that several Agreement States presently require two-person radiography teams and you indicated that NRC regulations should be modified to require two workers to be assigned to every radiography job.

Based on your discussions with the NRC staff, we believe that you feel present NRC regulations adequately protect the health and safety of radiographers and the public. However, it is your view that one individual cannot always meet both the NRC regulations and the production demands of some customers. In your case, you were physically unable to maintain the required safety measures and meet the customer's production rates for a particular pipeline job.

As described to you in our December 9, 1991 letter, we consider that current NRC regulations properly protect public health and safety while providing an appropriate level of flexibility to the industry. As part of this protection, NRC expects the management of radiography companies and their customers to provide adequate resources to assure that NRC regulations are met for all radiography operations. We conduct regular unannounced inspections of radiographers in the field to enforce our regulations, and where unsafe practices are identified we take appropriate enforcement action. In addition, we have recently modified our regulations to strengthen enforcement action against individuals and managers who intentionally violate NRC regulations.

We do appreciate your position. We also recognize that some Agreement State regulations do require that two radiographers be assigned to each job. The NRC has already instituted a general review of our radiography requirements including the two-person issue. We expect to publish the results of this review for public comment in 1993. We have provided your letter to Senator Specter to the NRC office conducting this review.

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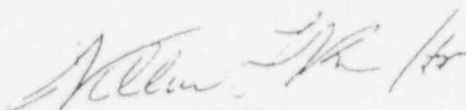
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However, should you continue to believe that NRC regulations need to be changed to address your concerns, you may petition the Commission to implement additional rulemaking. You must make your concerns known in writing to the Secretary of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission as specified in Section 2.802 of 10 CFR Part 2 (enclosed). Should you have any questions regarding filing a petition or other aspects of the radiography regulations, the appropriate contact is Mr. Michael Lamastra in the NRC Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. His telephone number is 301-504-3416. Also, per 10 CFR 2.802 (b), you may contact Mr. David Meyer, Chief, Regulatory Publications Branch, NRC Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration at (301) 492-7086 or toll free on 800-368-5642.

If you have any other questions or if Region I can be of further assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to call Mr. Paul Swetland of my staff at 215-337-5102.

Sincerely,



Thomas T. Martin
Regional Administrator

Enclosures:

1. NRC Letter to you dated
December 9, 1991
2. 10 CFR Part 2

cc w/enclosure (1)
Senator Arlen Specter