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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

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OFFICE OF SECURITY DOCKETING & SERVICE BRANCH

MEMORANDUM FOR: Files
FROM: Patricia Davis, Legal Assistant
Office of Commissioner Asselstine
SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION ABOUT COMANCHE PEAK

50-445 OL
50-446 OL

On October 12, 1984 I received a phone call from Juanita Ellis of CASE, an intervenor group in the Comanche Peak OL proceeding. Ms. Ellis said that she was deeply disturbed by reports in this morning's Dallas-Ft. Worth area newspapers. Those papers reported that Mr. Ippolito was resigning from the Comanche Peak independent review team and that the new administrator of Region IV would be replacing him as head of the review team.

Ms. Ellis said that there had been problems with Region IV's handling of Comanche Peak whistleblowers. She said that because of those problems people with important information had refused to deal with Region IV. Ms. Ellis said that people have been encouraged by the performance of the review group. Problems are now being identified and items closed by Region IV are being reopened. People who did not want to work with Region IV are cooperating with the review group. However, she did indicate that there still seemed to be a problem with getting back to the whistleblowers to explain what was being done about their concerns.

Ms. Ellis said that she questions the timing of Mr. Ippolito's resignation and his replacement by the regional administration. She said that the public perception will be that there is a cover-up going on and that the NRC is not interested in getting at the truth. If Region IV is involved in the review team in any way, the credibility of the review group will be undermined. Further, the whistleblowers will see it as a breach of trust because they were told Region IV would not be involved.

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