

DEC 16 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Region III Files - Perry 1 and 2
FROM: P. R. Pelke, Project Inspector
SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS FROM A RESIGNED ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR
(RIII-83-A-0093)

Attached are documents which update the subject allegation.

P.R. Pelke
P. R. Pelke
Project Inspector

cc: C. Weil
E. Pawlik

**EXEMPTION
DISCLOSURE**

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Electrical job faulted at Perry

By James Lawless

A former electrical quality control inspector at the \$1.2 billion Perry nuclear power plant will tell federal officials this morning that electrical parts of the plant are not safe.

Steve E. Balazs, 34, of Madison, said he quit his job Sept. 21 after two years because serious electrical problems have not been repaired and because he was prevented from writing reports on the deficiencies.

Balazs said quality control workers at Perry have been complaining to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for more than 17 months. He said only after the inspectors complained did the "Plain Dealer" bid the NRC arrange to meet with him today.

Balazs said he found exposed wires in the motor control cabinets plus a mass of unidentified wiring from the reactor to the control room and hundreds of improperly installed legs in electrical panels in the diesel generator rooms.

In addition, Balazs said he was prevented from writing non-conformance reports on problems by his bosses at the L.K. Comstock Co., the primary electrical contractor at Perry. The reports would have to be sent to the NRC.

Two other Comstock inspectors, fired from the site, complained of low morale and interference from supervisors. Balazs estimated 16 inspectors have been fired, quit or transferred in the last two months.

The two-nuclear-unit plant is being built by the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. and is jointly owned by four other utilities. A CEI spokesman said the company would investigate the Balazs charges.

Comstock officials, contacted about previous firings, either have failed to return telephone calls or refused to answer questions by phone, saying they must be submitted in writing.

Balazs said politics or money interfere with quality control.

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Ex-inspector is critical of Perry electrical work

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work and cause inspectors to be intimidated or misled.

As an example, Balazs said early this year he discovered hundreds of legs were installed improperly in the diesel generator areas. He said they all should be replaced because they could cause a fire or cause equipment to malfunction.

Balazs said it was five months before this was written as a non-conformance report and then only after the problem was found by an official working for CEI.

In another, Balazs said he approved a motor control cabinet and later discovered bare wires and other wires cut. He wanted to write a report about the problem and was told to leave it

alone.

NRC inspectors found the problem three months ago and Balazs was blamed for having approved it in the first place.

"I told my boss and he said, 'That's the way it goes.' This is a shameful situation," Balazs said.

Balazs said he is worried NRC will get these mechanical problems fixed but not deal with the broader issue. "If CEI is as concerned about quality control as they say, I wonder if they would hire me and others who got pushed out because we tried to do the job right," he asked.

"We need nuclear power," Balazs said. "It can't be built cheaply but it can be built safely."

CEI probes Perry plant contractor

By Bill Sammon
News-Reporter Staff Writer

The builder of the North Perry Village nuclear power plant is investigating whether its main electrical contractor "intentionally" and "deliberately" fixed an electrical inspector.

The builder, the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co., said it also wants to talk to a second quality control inspector who was "fired" last month and claims low morale is affecting the quality of construction.

"Up until now, everything seemed O.K.," said Gary Anthony, a spokesman from CEI's community relations department. Phillip O. Hendrickson, 29, of Palmetto has charged that he was unjustly fired last month by the contractor, L.K. Comstock Co., said Elizabeth Shaw, a CEI spokeswoman.

CEI wants to talk to Gene F. Marlin, a former quality control inspector, who charged that low morale of the quality control work force is affecting the safety of the work.

Hendrickson had been working at the \$1.2 billion plant

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less than a month after being transferred from Grandview, Wash., by Comstock. Marlin had reportedly been at the plant for 20 months when he was fired for having an unprofessional attitude and for refusing to follow directions of management.

The incident with Hendrickson is also being investigated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, said Mike Olinier, the NRC's resident inspector at the Perry plant. Olinier refused to elaborate on details of the investigation and was not available to talk about Marlin's charges.

Hendrickson claims "he was fired after asking permission to voice his concerns over construction practices at the plant to the NRC. Shaw said, 'The NRC is satisfied with the construction practices in question, but he concerned that Hendrickson may have been intimidated by his supervisors in Comstock,' Shaw said. Hendrickson could not be reached for comment.

"We're real concerned about this," Shaw said. "Hendrickson may have possibly been denied access to the NRC. We're going to be investigating from the intimidation aspect. If it's true, we won't tolerate it."

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From: Max Gildner - Perry SRI

NRC misses meeting with ex-Perry worker

By James Lawless

Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials failed to show up for a scheduled meeting with a former worker at the \$5.2 billion Perry nuclear power plant yesterday. They said the meeting was scheduled for "sometime this week."

Steve E. Balazs, the former electrical inspector at Perry, has charged that electrical systems at the Perry plant are unsafe. Paul Pelke, Perry project manager for NRC in Chicago, said Balazs must have misunderstood about the meeting.

NRC does want to examine allegations Balazs has made about Perry safety, Pelke said, and electrical inspectors will be at Perry this week. They will meet with Balazs.

He conceded that NRC was concerned about the morale problems that have developed among L. K. Comstock Co. electrical quality-control inspectors at Perry.

"If the morale problems are affecting safety, that is something we would be concerned about," Pelke said.

Lester O. Wuerfl, Comstock president in Danbury, Conn., said, "We are reviewing these allegations with CEI and the NRC. We do not believe there is a morale problem with quality-control people." Wuerfl said he did not know whether 16 quality-control people had left the site in the last two months, as has been alleged.

Max Gildner, NRC's resident inspector at Perry, said last week that Comstock tended to treat its workers like machines or tools instead of people. "We share the same concerns Max has," said Jan Strasma, NRC spokesman.

Balazs said he was called by NRC last week to set up the yesterday's meeting. "My wife spent the weekend cleaning the house for them," he said.

Balazs, who worked at Perry two years, was the third Comstock inspector to complain about working conditions and problems of being a quality-control inspector for the company.

Note: We need to get Jim's name
in the paper next!!!