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Mr. Samuel J. Chilk  
Secretary of the Commission  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
DOCKETING & SERVICE  
BRANCH

Attention: Docketing and Service Branch

Gentlemen:

I offer for your consideration some views on the question of psychological evaluations for employees of nuclear power plants.

It is my understanding that the current procedure involves screening by administration of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory with interviews of people who show serious problems on the M.M.P.I. I have used this test for over thirty years in Army, educational, Veterans Administration, and private practice settings. While I feel that it is an excellent test, I have never used it alone because in many cases it shows no signs of pathology when other means of evaluation show serious problems. False positives are not a serious difficulty when further screening and evaluation can correct the error. However, when over a third of the people with serious problems are not picked up (as is my impression) it is serious.

Even if the estimate of over a third false negative findings with the M.M.P.I. does not prove to be accurate, the stakes are so high in allowing unescorted access to nuclear reactors that more heroic measures are called for. I feel that at least a brief interview with each prospective employee is a minimal safeguard in this sensitive area.

In addition an interview allows the skilled evaluator to pick up physical signs of substance abuse and neurological disorders and to explore aspects of the prospects which are not related to psychopathology.

Sincerely,

*John N Marquis*  
John N. Marquis, Ph.D.

JNM/pcm

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