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MEMORANDUM

September 28, 1990

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
DOCKETING & SERVICE
BRANCH

TO: Dr. Ratib A. Karam, Director
Neely Nuclear Research Center

FROM: B. K. Revsin *BR*

SUBJECT: OFFICE OF RADIATION SAFETY

On July 2, 1990, a new Manager, Office of Radiation Safety (MORS), Dr. Brian Copcutt, reported for duty. I have concerns related to his performance in this office. While I have no indication that his knowledge level is inadequate, his managerial style is one which pretty much leaves inexperienced technicians to make numerous inappropriate decisions. As you are aware, much of the depth of experience has disappeared from the HP office with the resignation of Richard Barrow and the move to have Jerry Taylor have primary responsibility for the Hot Cell Operations. Dr. Copcutt comes to work each day (late I might add), goes to his office and shuts the door. If one of his staff needs to see him, they must come to knock on the door and ask permission to come in. He rarely makes an appearance in the Health Physics offices and leaves the staff on their own to decide what they should do. On numerous occasions I have found the technicians wrestling with problems which should be handled at a different level altogether. They indicate their reluctance to bring many of these issues to Dr. Copcutt's attention.

It is unclear what Dr. Copcutt does in his office each day with the door shut. Other than review survey documentation performed by the technicians (which takes approximately 1/2 day per month), there has been little other evidence of productivity. Even though he has been here for three months, he still seems unaware of what the radiation protection program at Georgia Tech consists of and from my conversations with him, appears uninterested in learning. He does not communicate with the other staff in the NNRC and appears to believe that he may operate independently of other staff and/or supervisory personnel. On September 27, 1990, at a meeting of the Nuclear Safeguards Committee, which on the Georgia Tech campus also functions as the radiation safety committee, after sitting in on the meeting for approximately 15 minutes, he got up and left saying call me if you need me.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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In the matter of Dr. Karam
 Staff Applicant Intervenor Other
 Identified Received Rejected Reporter W.L.W.
Date 5/20/96 Witness BC

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I feel that we need to find some mechanism by which he can be drawn into the programs of the NNRC - where he will assume his appropriate position as MORS and claim ownership of the radiation protection program. As the situation currently stands, we are not getting the help and assistance from him that we had counted on, but instead, another layer of bureaucracy has been created that must be dealt with. Consequently, instead of the work load improving at the NNRC, it has gotten heavier. Needless to say, this is a great disappointment. While I do not think radiation safety is suffering as a result of the above, I do think the potential for neglect exists and I am worried about how this will be perceived by the regulatory agencies, both the USNRC and the State of Georgia. I do not think we have been back in the good graces of the USNRC long enough that we can afford to back slide.