

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

SEP 23 1982

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Victor Stello, Jr., Deputy Executive Director
for Regional Operations and Generic Requirements

FROM: Richard C. DeYoung, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF DRUG-ABUSE MEETINGS WITH UTILITIES

You asked that we let you know our plans for continuing the series of meetings with utility management regarding their alcohol/drug-abuse programs. Enclosed is a copy of the instruction which we expect to issue to the regional offices on this subject.

As you will note from the instruction, we have changed the focus of the project from being primarily a survey of utility programs to an inspection-type activity. If we were to continue with the earlier survey approach, we would be duplicating part of the research project which RES currently has underway. Among other things, that effort will develop detailed information about the nature of the problem, a proposed effective and practical program for dealing with the problem, and a description of that NRC-acceptable program in a proposed Reg Guide.

Our refocused effort will obtain sufficient information at the corporate level to determine whether each utility has a program which should be reasonably effective in preventing use of drug/alcohol abusers in safety-sensitive positions. We want to identify any case, such as the Zion drug case, where the utility has no program or almost no program.

The reports of these meetings will be evaluated centrally to assure consistency since there is no NRC rule and formal guidance on the subject. In any case, where there is no utility program or one that is so obviously deficient that there is no assurance of keeping drug-influenced employees away from safety functions, I and the Regional Administrator will jointly determine the best course of action to remedy the situation.

Regarding a schedule for completing the project, we plan that the Regions rather than IE should complete the series of meetings. These meetings will include all utilities, except those surveyed initially, which have plants with an operating license. There will be training seminars in October for regional managers and staff who will be involved in the utility meetings. The tentative deadline for completing the meetings is February 15, 1983. This is subject to change if the Regions find that the meetings probably can't be completed by that date due to higher priority work.

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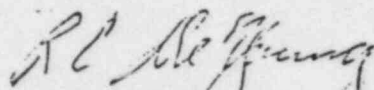
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If you have any comments or questions about our plans, please call me. Loren Bush, 492-8080, is the staff contact on this project.



Richard C. DeYoung, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

Enclosure: As stated

cc: Regional Administrators
J. G. Davis, IMSS ✓
H. R. Denton, NRR
R. B. Minogue, RES