

APR 14 1988

The Honorable John J. Duncan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Duncan:

Thank you for your letter of March 2, 1988, that forwarded correspondence from one of your constituents, Mr. Paul Pierce. Mr. Pierce expressed concern about the cost of uniforms for operators at nuclear power plants, in particular at the Sequoyah plant operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

We appreciate Mr. Pierce's concerns about economy; however, the matter of the cost of uniforms is outside the purview of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. While the NRC is concerned about operator performance and supports actions that will enhance that performance, we do not require that operators wear uniforms or uniform attire. That decision is made by the utilities that operate the plants. As we understand it, some utilities--such as TVA--have their operators wear uniform attire to foster a more structured environment, to improve the esprit de corps among operators, or to provide a way to easily identify different categories of personnel. That, however, is their decision, not an NRC requirement.

I hope that this information about the role of the NRC in this matter will be helpful in your response to Mr. Pierce's concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Victor Stello

Victor Stello, Jr.
Executive Director for Operations

DISTRIBUTION

Docket File (50-327/328)	SEbnetter	HDenton (3)	JScarborough
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*SEE PREVIOUS PAGE FOR CONCURRENCE

TVAPD:TA*	TVAPD:A/DIR*	OSP:DD*	OSP:DIR*	EDO	EDO
JClifford	SRichardson	JAxelrad	SEbnetter	TRehm	VStello
03/24/88	03/24/88	03/24/88	03/24/88	4/ /88	4/13/88

OCA *jac*
JBradburne
4/14/88

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PDR ADDCK 05000327
P PDR

The Honorable John J. Duncan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Duncan:

This is in reply to your letter dated March 2, 1988, that forwarded a letter from Mr. Paul Pierce regarding the purchase of uniforms for operators at Tennessee Valley Authority's nuclear power plants.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission does not require that utilities provide uniforms for their operators. Although the NRC supports initiatives by utilities to enhance the performance of its operators, the decision to expend funds on uniforms lies with the utilities. Operators must remain attentive to all aspects of safe plant operation. A formal, structured environment can contribute to the performance of operators. Utilities sometimes require uniforms to provide such an environment. Uniforms can be used to improve the esprit de corps among the operators or to differentiate between level of operators (e.g., to differentiate between a senior operator and a shift supervisor). However, these uniforms are not required by the NRC.

We hope this provides sufficient information for your constituent to understand the context of TVA's decision to purchase uniforms for their operators.

Sincerely,

Victor Stello, Jr.
Executive Director for Operations

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TVAPD:TA
JCifford:jg
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

ACTION

EDC PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

FROM: DUE: 03/24/88 EDC CONTROL: 003556
REP. JOHN J. DUNCAN DOC DT: 03/02/88
FINAL REPLY:

TO:
OCA

FOR SIGNATURE OF: ** GREEN ** SECY NO: 88-190
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DESC: ROUTING:
ENCLOSES LETTER FROM PAUL PIERCE CONCERNING
UNIFORMS FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT OPERATORS AT
SEQUOYAH MURLEY
MURRAY

DATE: 03/10/88
ASSIGNED TO: OSP CONTACT: EBNETER

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

PAPER NUMBER: CRC-88-0190 LOGGING DATE: Mar 8 88
ACTION OFFICE: EDO
AUTHOR: J.J. Duncan--Const Ref
AFFILIATION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
LETTER DATE: Mar 2 88 FILE CODE: C&R-2
SUBJECT: Uniforms for nuclear power plant operators
ACTION: Direct Reply
DISTRIBUTION: OCA to Ack
SPECIAL HANDLING: None
NOTES: Paul Pierce
DATE DUE: Mar 22 88
SIGNATURE: . DATE SIGNED:
AFFILIATION:

Rec'd Off. EDO

Date

Time

EDO---003556