

DES

September 7, 1988

Director, Office of Enforcement  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attention: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Re: Walter M. Eagles, III  
Docket No. 55-9527  
License No. OP-10135-1  
EA 88-11

Dear Sir:

SUBJECT: REPLY TO NOTICE OF VIOLATION

I was notified by letter dated August 9, 1988, from James M. Taylor, Deputy Executive Director for Regional Operations, that a Notice of Violation was issued to me pursuant to my actions as a reactor operator at the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station.

I acknowledge that I was engaged in activities in violation of my reactor operator license and Peach Bottom Administrative Procedure A-7, at various times, prior to the plant shutdown on March 31, 1987. I was involved in activities which precluded me from adequately performing my licensed duties, such as, reading non-technical material, reclining in a resting position and participating in other activities which distracted my attention from the control panels. Although I saw others violating the same procedure on occasion, only once did I take affirmative action to report the behavior. Clearly, by my actions, I failed to meet all of the requirements of my reactor operator license.

For months now, I have struggled to find the reasons for my behavior and the other problems which developed at Peach Bottom. Safety was of uppermost importance in my mind when I started in the Control Room. Somewhere along the line, however, that got pushed into the background. Co-workers and I began to develop an unhealthy, lax attitude concerning our duties and obligations in the plant. There was a lot of good technical ability amongst the operators, but it became obvious, after a while, that the mental attitudes of the men in the Control Room were not what they

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should have been. There came a point, in my career, when I failed to take affirmative action against circumstances and actions which violated Procedure A-7 and the provisions of my license. I followed the lead of others in the plant, and permitted myself to become complacent and unprofessional. I lapsed into an attitude of relying on the alarm system rather than doing independent work in trying to anticipate plant conditions and understanding changes in the plant before emergency situations arose. I also acted as an individual, instead of a team member. I responded and monitored my own panel and board, and felt that others' problems or concerns were not my responsibility. There are no rational reasons for my failure to fulfill the responsibilities of my license. My behavior was unacceptable and inappropriate. I have a responsibility to my employer, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the community at large. I have a license from the government to run the reactor in a safe manner. Safety should have been my prime concern at all times. With those activities behind me now, I have promised myself that this will never happen again.

I am determined to be on top of what is happening in the plant at all times. I am encouraged by the fact that the attitudes of other employees in the Control Room have changed in a similar fashion. I am optimistic about the improved relations that I, as an operator, have with my management. In particular, I am blessed with a capable and professional Shift Manager who is attentive to my concerns on the job. He has made it clear that he expects us to properly operate the reactor. In addition, he has given me a communications flow path to management. He goes out of his way to deal with issues that I present to him, and makes sure that I am not left hanging without answers.

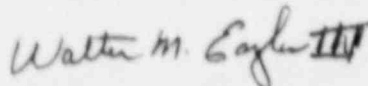
The PFE training course also helped me to recognize how to effectively deal with others. It provided me with the confidence to question practices that I do not understand or find to be contrary to established procedure. Based upon the PFE training course and the rejuvenated attitude throughout the plant, I feel that I am better able to communicate with management concerning my physical capabilities on the job (in terms of my ability to accept additional shifts in a day), as well as discussing apparent weaknesses in procedures or policies. I now have a positive role model in my Shift Manager. I trust the man. That, in and of itself, helps to alleviate a lot of my job anxieties.

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I have been reprimanded by Philadelphia Electric Company, as well as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, for my actions. This is a very serious matter to me. I recognize that if I am involved in similar conduct in the future, I will lose my license and I will be fired. I recognize that others will be treated in a similar manner. That possibility, however, will not deter me from performing my duty to report if procedures are violated by others in the future. I am prepared to act properly and with a renewed vigor towards my responsibilities and duties as an operator. I want to be a reactor operator; but more importantly, I want to be known as a safe and capable operator.

I look at my job assignment at the Peach Bottom Power Station with a new commitment and hope for the future. We, at the plant, have a new attitude. I now have the proper understanding of my license and what it means. Plant safety is my individual responsibility, as well as my responsibility as a team member. As the holder of an NRC license, I have a personal obligation to act when I see something detrimental to the safety or the quality of plant operations. I have a very important job as an operator; one that I now approach in a professional, responsible and respectable manner. I intend to uphold this commitment.

Respectfully submitted,



Walter M. Eagles, III

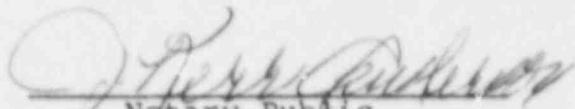
cc: Regional Administrator  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region I  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

AFFIDAVIT

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA :  
COUNTY OF *York* : SS.:

Before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared  
WALTER M. EAGLES, III, who being duly sworn according to law  
deposes and says that the statements made in his Reply to  
Notice of Violation are true and correct to the best of his  
information, knowledge and belief.

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this *4* day of  
*Sept*, 1988.

  
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Notary Public

(SEAL)

My commission expires:

J. KERR ANDERSON, NOTARY PUBLIC  
LOWER CHANCEFORD TOWNSHIP, YORK COUNTY  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES APRIL 26, 1991  
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries