

September 9, 1988

Mr. Walter R. Mikesell, Vice Chairman
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
Council on Codes and Standards
c/o Robert Cloud and Associates
125 University Avenue
Berkley, California 94710

FOR PDS PROCESSING

Original document not available to NRC

Certified by Cileen Peyton

Dear Mr. Mikesell:

In response to allegations concerning harassment and intimidation of Authorized Nuclear Inspectors at TVA plants, the NRC Office of Investigations conducted an extensive investigation to determine if these allegations were substantiated. The conclusion of the investigation is that four of the nine authorized nuclear inspectors assigned to TVA were either coerced, pressured, harassed, intimidated and/or threatened by their management. This included one inspector who was directed by his management to accept the disposition of a non-conforming condition which did not meet code requirements.

As you know, the NRC depends to a great extent on the inspections of the authorized nuclear inspectors to ensure that activities covered under the scope of the ASME Code are carried out in an appropriate manner. Activities that have the potential to adversely impact those inspection activities such as harassment or intimidation of inspection personnel are of great concern to the NRC. In order to protect the integrity of the code inspection system, these activities must also receive priority attention from the ASME.

Enclosed is a copy of the report of the NRC investigation into the issue at TVA. Portions of the report dealing with personal privacy of individuals have been deleted. After the ASME staff responsible for oversight of the authorized nuclear inspector program have reviewed the report, ASME and the NRC should meet to discuss what actions ASME will take on this issue. A similar letter forwarding the NRC Investigation Report is being forwarded to the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors and the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company for their review and they will be asked to participate in this meeting. Mr. Ed Baker of the NRC staff will be contacting your office to arrange this meeting.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Brian K. Grimes, Director
Division of Reactor Inspection
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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PDR TOPRP EUTTVA
C PNU

Enclosure:
Report of Investigation
Case No. 2-85-0345

cc: see next page

*For previous concurrences, see attached ORC

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Mr. W. R. Mikesell

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September 9, 1988

cc: Mr. Melvin R. Green
Managing Director
Codes and Standard Department
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
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Mr. Donald J. McDonald
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