

June 26, 1997

7C
RI-97-A-0145



Subject: Concerns You Raised to the NRC Regarding Pennsylvania Power & Light's (PP&L) Susquehanna facility

Dear 

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This refers to your telephone conversation with Mr. Brad Fewell, Regional Counsel, on June 20, 1997, in which you expressed concerns related to Susquehanna. Specifically, you indicated that (1) there were alarm tests (i.e., the ESS transfer alarm test, the OC 322 panel alarm test for radwaste, and the control room panel alarm test) that were not performed; and (2) if PP&L management asserted, during the NRC enforcement conference on March 21, 1997, that the failures on the "E" diesel alarm test were isolated, they made a misrepresentation to the NRC because PP&L management (i.e., Kevin Chambliss, Jon Edwards, Tom Markowski, Mike Peal, and G. Kuczynski) knew these other alarm tests were not being performed and did not do anything to ensure they would be performed. You were contacted on June 24, 1997, by Mr. Brian McDermott, an NRC resident inspector at Susquehanna, and asked to provide additional specific information about the above concerns.

We have initiated actions to examine your concerns as characterized above and will inform you of our findings. The NRC notes that in resolving technical issues, the NRC is also protecting the identity of allegers and intends to take all reasonable efforts not to disclose your identity to any organization, individual outside the NRC, or the public unless you clearly indicate no objection to being identified. However, you should be aware that your identity could be disclosed if disclosure is necessary to ensure public health and safety, if disclosure is necessary to inform Congress or State or Federal agencies in furtherance of NRC responsibilities under law or public trust, and disclosure is necessary to support a hearing on an NRC enforcement matter or if you have taken actions that are inconsistent with and override the purpose of protecting an allegers identity.

If a request is filed under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) related to your area(s) of concern, the information provided will, to the extent consistent with that act, be purged of names and other potential identifiers. Further, you should be aware you are not considered a confidential source unless confidentiality has been formally granted in writing.

Attached is a brochure entitled "Reporting Safety Concerns to the NRC," which provides a description of the NRC process in these matters.

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Should you have any additional questions, or if the NRC can be of further assistance in this matter, please call me via the NRC Safety Hotline at 1-800-695-7403.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

David J. Vito
Senior Allegation Coordinator

Enclosure: As stated



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bcc: Allegation File No. RI-97-A-0145

DOCUMENT NAME: C:\ALG\ACK\97-0145.CL2

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OFFICE	ORA/SAC		DRP/PPB4		
NAME	DVito\kd1	<i>DD</i>	RKernig	<i>sol</i>	
DATE	6/24/97		6/24/97		

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June 26, 1997

RI-97-A-0145

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: CONCERNS YOU RAISED TO THE NRC REGARDING PENNSYLVANIA POWER & LIGHT'S (PP&L) SUSQUEHANNA FACILITY

Dear [REDACTED]

This refers to your telephone conversation with Mr. Brad Fewell, Regional Counsel, on June 20, 1997, in which you expressed concerns related to Susquehanna. Specifically, you indicated that (1) there were additional alarm tests that were not performed (other than those recently reviewed with regard to the 'E' emergency diesel generator and General Station Inspections (GSIs)); and (2) PP&L management knew these tests (i.e., the ESS transfer alarm test, the OC 322 panel alarm test for radwaste, and the control room panel alarm test) were not being performed except by the afternoon shift. You were contacted on June 23, 1997, by Mr. Brian McDermott, an NRC resident inspector at Susquehanna, and asked to provide additional specific information about the above concerns.

During your June 20, 1997 telephone conversation with Mr. Fewell, you indicated that you felt that you were fired because you were very involved in union activities. You also indicated that in the 1987-1989 time frame, you were critical of the "soft shutdown" procedure and using only two PCOs to do single loop scram time testing. In making this statement, we assumed that you were inferring that this also contributed to your termination. We note that involvement in union activities is not under NRC regulatory purview. This type of concern may be pursued through established union grievance processes. Regarding the criticisms you indicated you raised in the 1987-1989 time frame, you did not indicate who these comments were made to or what adverse personnel actions, if any, were taken in response to these comments. Absent additional specific information that would support a review of this matter, the NRC plans no action at this time.

During your conversation with Mr. Fewell, you indicated that you were dissatisfied with the NRC allegation process and you felt that your September 9, 1996 allegation has not been handled in a timely manner. With respect to these concerns and any other concerns that you may have regarding the performance of the NRC staff, you may refer any questions or other comments on these matters to the NRC Office of Inspector General (OIG) directly at 1-800-233-3497.

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We have initiated actions to examine your concerns as characterized above and will inform you of our findings. The NRC notes that in resolving technical issues, the NRC is also protecting the identity of alleged and intends to take all reasonable efforts not to disclose your identity to any organization, individual outside the NRC, or the public unless you clearly indicate no objection to being identified. However, you should be aware that your identity could be disclosed if disclosure is necessary to ensure public health and safety, if disclosure is necessary to inform Congress or State or Federal agencies in furtherance of NRC responsibilities under law or public trust, and disclosure is necessary to support a hearing on an NRC enforcement matter or if you have taken actions that are inconsistent with and override the purpose of protecting an alleged's identity.

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Attached is a brochure entitled "Reporting Safety Concerns to the NRC," which provides a description of the NRC process in these matters.

Should you have any additional questions, or if the NRC can be of further assistance in this matter, please call me via the NRC Safety Hotline at 1-800-695-7403.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

David J. Vito
Senior Allegation Coordinator

Enclosure: As stated

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NAME	DVito\kd1 <i>DV</i>	RKe/mig <i>for</i>		
DATE	6/20/97	6/25/97		

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