

# CITIZENS REGULATORY COMMISSION

## *Neighbors Asking Questions*

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Dr. Shirley Jackson  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

February 11, 1999

Re: January, 1996 Millstone Firings

Dear Dr. Jackson:

The reputation of the NRC in Southeastern Connecticut was in a shambles in 1995. Your arrival on the scene gave us hope for a change for the better. There was, of course, some skepticism but your visits to Waterford and our personal visits with you made us feel we were dealing with an honest and sincere person.

Events of the past year have not helped the reputation you have tried to build. Honestly, we fear you will leave the NRC in almost the same wretched turmoil you found it. The latest indication that the NRC has not changed is the manner in which the January, 1996 dismissal at Millstone has been handled by the Office of Investigation, the Office of Enforcement and the Millstone 3 S.P.O.. More specifically we criticize the following:

We think the NRC has misused the word "independent" for your review. The press release states that Judge Bollwerk's review will be assisted by NRC employees and experts from outside the agency. We think you should consider that any NRC employee who is asked to evaluate matters in which his or her superior, Dr. Travers, is one of the principal subjects will be involved in a clear conflict of interest.

We urge you to initiate a truly independent evaluation of these dismissals by appointing no NRC or OIG employees to Judge Bollwerk's team.

We also offer the following suggestions for your investigation of this matter which we have excerpted from a New London DAY editorial of January 10.

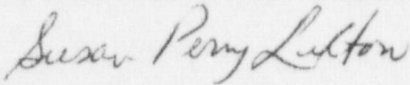
- Reopen the case and assess the original decision against NU and the vice president in question. This would make a statement that serious violations will be punished and harassment won't be tolerated.
- Make the Office of Investigations answerable only to the chairman of the commission, not to the staff, as former NU whistleblower Paul Blanche has suggested. This will make it less likely that other members of the NRC staff will water down unpopular decisions, as may have occurred in this case.

- Punish the Office of Investigations officials who lied by saying that no problems were found with the layoffs, when in fact that was not true.
- Ask Dr. Travers, who was heavily involved in the restart decision and who now leads the agency, why he didn't object to the decision reversal.
- End the practice of not making written reports. Secrecy doesn't work in a democracy. Such a practice only assures that tough decisions won't get carried out and the citizenry, once again, will be ill-served by its public watchdog.

We wish you well in your new position.

Sincerely,

CITIZENS REGULATORY COMMISSION



Susan Perry Luxton

cc. Senator Joseph Lieberman  
Senator Christopher Dodd  
Congressman Sam Gejdenson  
Senator Joseph Biden, Jr.  
Congressman Edward Markey