



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

6/10/86
50-341

January 17, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Charles E. Norelius, Director, Division of Reactor Projects
FROM: Charles H. Weil, Investigation and Compliance Specialist
SUBJECT: ALLEGATION RE: FERMI FEEDWATER PUMP/TURBINE FAILURE
(50-341) (AMS NO. RIII-86-A-0005)

Reference: Memo dated January 14, 1986, same subject.

On January 17, 1986, the allegor telephoned Region III after receiving Region III's January 14, 1986, letter acknowledging his concerns. The allegor stated essentially as follows:

He wanted to be personally interviewed by the NRC inspector assigned to resolve his concerns. He thought that his background, as a millwright and a holder of several patents for pump turbines, would greatly assist the inspector in resolving the issues. His opinion was that the Detroit Edison Company (DECO) and Bechtel could not resolve any of the problems at the Fermi Plant because they never searched for the root cause of a problem. Rather, they only changed failed parts to get going again. He stated that DECO and Bechtel "cannot trouble shoot. They only treat symptoms and only replace parts without finding the real cause." According to the allegor, DECO, Bechtel, and the NRC are too interested in determining if a procedure was properly followed, rather than determining how work was done. The allegor stated, "they only talk paper, never physical."

Regarding the reactor feedwater pump failure, the allegor stated, "I never heard of a turbine that size failing." The allegor stated that a local newspaper had reported that loose bolts on the turbine bearing housing had been responsible for the failure. The allegor contended that this was wrong, and stated "if the NRC believed that, then the NRC is in the dark as much as Edison." The allegor stated that the problems stemmed from no load testing. During the testing a vibration in the turbine was detected and DECO decided not to tear down the pump turbine. DECO also decided that if they did "a slow warm up the problem might stop."

The allegor also stated that an underground newspaper was being published in the Fermi area, and that the underground newspaper would "tell the locals the problems (at Fermi) not being being told by the (regular) newspapers."

The allegor reiterated his desire to be personally interviewed by the inspector assigned to resolve the concerns.

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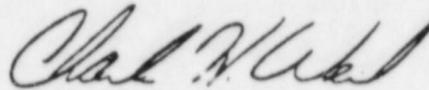
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Charles E. Norelius

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The essence of his concerns appear to be not only the reactor feedwater up failure, but also DECO's and Bechtel's inabilities to search for and correct the root causes of equipment failures. The above information is furnished for your staff in resolving the allegations.



Charles H. Weil
Investigation and
Compliance Specialist

cc: RIII:RAO
OI:RIII
E. G. Greenman
J. J. Harrison
R. J. Strasma
R. M. Lickus
G. F. Wright