

CITIZENS AWARENESS NETWORK

February 2, 1998

Mr. Leonard J. Callan
Executive Director of Operations
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

PETITION FOR ENFORCEMENT, PURSUANT TO 10 CFR 2.206, TO REVOKE
NORTHEAST UTILITIES' OPERATING LICENSES FOR ITS CONNECTICUT NUCLEAR
POWER STATIONS DUE TO CHRONIC SYSTEMIC MISMANAGEMENT RESULTING IN
A POLICY OF INTIMIDATION AND HARRASSMENT BY MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

In the interest of public health and safety, Citizens Awareness Network (CAN), and Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS), hereby petition the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206, to enforce the requirement of NRC regulations in regards to continued systemic mismanagement by senior management at Northeast Utilities (NU), the licensee of Millstone Units I, II, and III, and revoke the utility's license to operate. Given systemic managerial harassment of its workforce by the licensee, and orders by the Commissioners regarding the closure of four reactors in Connecticut, it is essential that enforcement action be taken.

I REQUESTED ACTION

1. The Petitioners request the revocation of Northeast Utilities license to operate Millstone Units I, II, and III as the result of ongoing intimidation and harassment of its workforce by NU management.
2. The Petitioners request the revocation of NU's license to operate Millstone Units I, II, and III as the result of persistent licensee defiance to adherence to NRC regulations and directives to create a "questioning attitude" for its workers to challenge management on nuclear safety issues without fear of harassment, intimidation, or reprisals by the utility.
3. The Petitioners request that NRC refer the Nuclear Oversight Focus 98 List and the reported NU management attempt to destroy the list to the Department of Justice for investigation of a potential cover up.

THE EXPERIMENT IS OVER

Web site: www.nukebusters.org E-Mail: can@shaysnet.com

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II BACKGROUND:

At present Millstone I, II, III and Connecticut Yankee were shut down by order of the NRC Commissioners because the reactors were operating in disregard of fundamental NRC regulations designed to assure workers and the public are adequately protected. NU violated NRC regulations, despite a continuing responsibility to assure the safety of the most vulnerable members of the public, protect workers, and safeguard its own assets.

A root cause for NU's chronic and systemic mismanagement is harassment and intimidation of its workforce on a routine and regular basis. The utility's choice to place profit ahead of compliance with NRC regulations created an unsafe work environment. Unfortunately this policy remains intact in the hostile environment maintained by NU management toward its workforce in its Millstone Unit III restart efforts.

An NU document, the Focus 98 List, dated January 11, 1998, distributed on January 21st by Nuclear Oversight, directs the group to address "Areas Needing Improvement" by focusing on the "inability to 'isolate' cynics from the group culture" and "pockets of negativism." This list demonstrates the sustained and unrelenting senior management policy to undermine a safety-conscious workplace at the Millstone Units. Despite two years of increased regulatory scrutiny of the managerial mistreatment of its workers and the corporation's mismanagement of its employees safety concerns program, a "chilled atmosphere" remains intact and entrenched.

NU's efforts to sanitize the evidence in the list, are unconvincing to CAN and NIRS. The utility's efforts to justify the corporation's exposed agenda as a mistake in language and its rush to destroy the list is evidence of an apparent campaign to create damage control rather than address the substantive issue of creating a "questioning environment" for its employees.

The controversial list was not addressed until the New London Day reported on it, January 30th. The Nuclear Oversight group did not bring the incriminating list to the attention of either the Commission or Little Harbor Consulting Group before that time. In fact, management attempts, though unsuccessful to recall and destroy the list, constitute a potential cover up of the systemic culture of intimidation that exists at NU.

Since it has been reported that NU management employees attempted to destroy the list, NRC has a duty to refer this apparent deliberate attempt to evade the otherwise lawful exercise of authority by NRC to the Department of Justice for complete investigation. This alleged attempt to cover up wrong doing by NRC's licensee is a potential obstruction of justice that should be fully and fairly investigated.

III ABOUT THE PETITIONERS:

Citizens Awareness Network (CAN) is a non-profit, public interest group with members located in proximity to the Yankee Rowe reactor in MA, the Vermont Yankee reactor in VT, the Connecticut Yankee reactor and Millstone Units in CT, and the Seabrook reactor in NH. We are concerned with the entire nuclear fuel cycle from the mining of uranium, the standard operation of nuclear power stations to the siting of rad-waste facilities. CAN represents citizens in many impacted communities that experience the economic,

environmental, and health consequences of the uranium fuel cycle. Since 1991, CAN participated in a variety of NRC proceedings including, hearings on reactor embrittlement and decommissioning, rulemakings, workshops, hearings on reactor embrittlement and decommissioning, and adjudicatory hearings.

Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) is a nonprofit public interest group whose work is related to nuclear power, radioactive waste, and renewable energy. NIRS membership is nationwide including Connecticut residents whose health and safety is prioritized by the requested actions in this petition. With an office in Washington, DC, NIRS has been a participant in nuclear regulatory affairs, including rulemakings, enforcement actions, and adjudications involving individual nuclear power stations since 1978.

IV CONCLUSION:

For the foregoing reasons, petitioners ask the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission to grant the petition by immediately commencing: (1) enforcement action, as detailed above, against Northeast Utilities, and (2) referral of Focus 98 List to the Department of Justice for investigation.

Dated: This 2nd Day of February 1998

Respectfully Submitted as:

Deborah Katz (cs)

Deborah Katz
President
Citizens Awareness Network
P.O. Box 83
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
413-339-5781

Paul Gunter (cs)

Paul Gunter
Reactor Watchdog Program
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
1424 16th Street NW 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20036
202-328-0002

Rosemary Bassilakis
Researcher
Citizens Awareness Network
54 Old Turnpike Road
Haddam, CT 06438
860-345-2157

Rosemary Bassilakis