



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 22, 2022

MEMORANDUM TO: Daniel H. Dorman
Executive Director for Operations

THRU: Mark D. Lombard, Director
Office of Enforcement

FROM: Lisamarie L. Jarriel
Agency Allegation Advisor

SUBJECT: ALLEGATION PROGRAM CY 2021 ANNUAL TRENDS REPORT

In accordance with Management Directive 8.8, "Management of Allegations," dated January 29, 2016, the Agency Allegation Advisor is to offer the Executive Director for Operations an independent annual report analyzing allegation trends. A copy of the annual trends report for calendar year 2021 is enclosed.

The report analyzes national, regional, and site-specific trends in allegation data. From a national perspective, the total number of allegations received declined between calendar years 2017 and 2020, but in 2021 the trend reversed and the number of allegations the NRC received increased by approximately 40 percent. Last year the staff considered whether the decline in 2020 was related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Although it couldn't be verified by an analysis of the available data, less onsite staffing and work designed to limit face-to-face interactions in 2020 likely resulted in fewer conflicts or opportunities for error that might have otherwise translated into allegations. Similarly, it is also reasonable to assume that increased onsite work contributed to increased allegations in 2021.

The analyses also provide insights into the environment for raising concerns at one reactor site that was the subject of many allegations. A review of the number and nature of the allegations associated with the Vogtle construction site in 2021, and inspections conducted by the NRC, indicates that workers were not hesitant to raise safety concerns through many of the available reporting avenues. Furthermore, the NRC notes that the licensee appears to be effectively monitoring conditions to identify any stressors the workforce might experience as the plants near operation that could impact the environment for raising concerns. None of the operating reactor, materials, or vendor sites received enough allegations to discern a trend or pattern or to provide insights into their work environments.

Enclosure:
As stated

CONTACT: Lisamarie L. Jarriel, OE/FO
(301) 287-9006

D. Dorman

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