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December 2, 1999

Secretary of the Commission
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Commissioner:

I am urgently concerned about the safety of the millions of Americans who live near nuclear plants. A nuclear power plant accident threatens the environment, the humans and animals, and the genetic make up of all living things near it.

It has come to my attention that nuclear plants in competition with other power sources are cutting costs at the risk of our lives. Staffs have been cut, and remaining workers and managers are working up to, and sometimes more than 72 hours a week, jeopardizing their alertness. I understand that being awake for 17 hours has the same effect as .05% alcohol in the blood. That's not good enough for nuclear workers or the rest of us. There are regulations for airline pilots, truck drivers, and train engineers. We need these regulations for nuclear plant workers too.

I have also learned that supervisors intimidate, harrass and fire workers who try to change their working conditions. This is illegal, but the supervisors plead "ignorant of the law" and the company is merely fined \$110,000. This is a cheap price for them to pay, so they continue to do it.

Please protect us all by:

1. Insisting that nuclear plant owners educate their supervisors in the law about employees. Then hold the plant owners responsible for any harrassing, intimidation or illegal firing of nuclear workers who "blow the whistle" on their difficult and dangerous working conditions.

(And, plain and simple, stop the firing of nuclear plant workers who raise safety issues.)

2. Reduce the allowed working hours and conditions to insure that full alertness is available to employees.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my opinion.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Claire



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