

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

December 7, 1999

RE: Proposed NRC Rules/Employee Working Hour Limits & Employee Protection Training

Dear Secretary:

I'm writing to share with you my views on two proposed rules that are intended to ensure that nuclear workers become a critical line of defense in preventing a disastrous nuclear accident. Every effort should be made to assist and support employees who have so much responsibility. Workers everywhere should not be working when they're fatigued nor be fearful of illegal discrimination, this is doubly important for nuclear power plant workers. They are, as the Union of Concerned Scientists says, our FIRST LINE of defense against accidents.

I urge you to support two proposed rules, 1) establishing limits on working hours for employees at nuclear power plants, and 2) mandating training on employee protection regulations to supervisors, managers, and directors.

It is my understanding that these two rules will go a long way to: * enhancing nuclear plant worker performance by preventing fatigue, * insuring that the repairing, inspecting, and testing of safety equipment (while the plants are operating or shut down) will be done by workers NOT impaired by fatigue, * encouraging nuclear plant workers to come forward about safety problems by diminishing their fear of telling the truth, and finally * preventing supervisors, managers, and directors from using "ignorance of the law" as a shield for their illegal actions against workers who conscientiously and responsibly report their safety concerns. I'm convinced that these two proposed rules, taken together, will further safeguard the public welfare and our environment by reducing the likelihood of nuclear power plant accidents.

My views here are offered as public comment on your upcoming review of the proposed rules. I expect you will be careful and circumspect in your deliberations.

Thanks for listening.

Sincerely,



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