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Secretary of the Commission
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Washington DC 20555-0001

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RE: Nuclear Plant Safety

OFFICE OF
RULE
ADJUDICATION
STAFF

Sir;

It has come to my attention that, within the next few months, the NRC will make decisions on two proposed rules. They are intended to ensure that Nuclear plant workers are an effective defense against accidents which have the potential to inflict huge scale and long term damage on our planet and its' inhabitants.

One of the rules would limit employees working hours; to guard against performance degradation caused by fatigue. The NRC already has rules to protect against performance degradation caused by drug and alcohol use. It has also been conclusively demonstrated by scientific study, that fatigue causes the SAME KIND of performance degradation. Human performance problems DID contribute to both of the accidents at the Three Mile Island and Chernobyl Plants. Yet the NRC now takes no action against Plant owners or managers who abuse overtime guidelines. **HOLD THEM RESPONSIBLE.**

The other rule would mandate training for supervisors, managers, and directors, on employee protection regulations. Both of these NRC rules are essential to creating an effective defense against the causes of accidents, but this second one is **CRITICAL**. I have good reason to believe that at least two horrendous accidents have **ALREADY** occurred **HERE IN THE UNITED STATES**, because those in control failed to heed the voices of technicians with safety concerns. One incident was related to me as having been a Top Secret Military experiment. I have read published accounts of the results of another, which appeared to me to have been "sanitized." There are probably others. The truth about **ALL** is probably still classified top secret. The worst were apparently not as catastrophic as what happened at Chernobyl, but **DID** result in immediate deaths and extensive long term health problems for those affected, and in considerable environmental damage as well. I have never had the opportunity to read any official or classified accounts of these military incidents, but I have heard a narrative account of one, from a military individual, who had been in a position to know. That person stated that the information was classified, and demanded that I promise **NEVER** to identify them as the source. That source sought to obtain protection in **THE ONLY WAY AVAILABLE TO THEM**. Yet the NRC has allowed just exactly the same situation in the civilian Nuclear Industry since 1974, when Karen Silkwood first spoke out. Only secrecy and irresponsibility are protected. If a worker voices unpopular concerns, they are harassed and/or intimidated, perhaps even clandestinely poisoned, until they are silenced. Current NRC regulations **CLAIM** to protect them, but do not. Action is taken **ONLY** against the **CORPORATION**, leaving the criminal supervisor, manager and/or director to continue the practice. The excuse used to justify this foolishness is that the NRC can not **PROVE** that the guilty individuals **KNEW** that their crime was illegal! This is **IDIOTIC!** If a normal adult drove a car down the street where you live at 80 miles per hour, and killed your child with it, would you conclude that the **CAR** should be blamed, because the driver had never obtained a driver's license? A corporation is an **ARTIFICIAL** and **FICTITIOUS** individual, no more capable of assuming responsibility than that car! **MANDATE THIS TRAINING**, so that you can **HOLD THEM RESPONSIBLE!** If you do not, then **YOU** may one day be indirectly responsible for causing hundreds or thousands of deaths and injuries, resulting from an **AVOIDABLE** nuclear accident. Some of the victims might even **BE** you or members of your family. If you do not protect these conscientious workers, then I hope that **YOU** are held responsible for it, by losing **YOUR** career, health and peace of mind, as many of them have lost theirs'.

Sincerely,

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