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From: "Robert N. Meyer" <RNM@insightbb.com>
To: <nrcprep@nrc.gov>
Date: Wed, Feb 18, 2004 10:47 PM
Subject: Requested Reading at the Meeting: Maintaining a Safety Conscious Work Environment at the Core

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Please deliver to this comment to the following meeting as a Stakeholder:

PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA
BEST PRACTICES TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A
SAFETY CONSCIOUS WORK ENVIRONMENT (SCWE)
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
February 19, 2004
NRC Headquarters, Room O-1G16

Chief, Rules and Directives Branch,

Speaking as a private citizen, formally licensed operator, and a current licensed operator requalification instructor, representing no other affiliations associated with this comment, I wish to convey the following message at the public meeting February 19, 2004.

The NRC is the largest factor in maintaining a safety conscious work environment. Complacency, disregard for employee rights and lack of proper rigor in pursuing allegations has been the single most contributor to a degraded Safety Conscious Work Environment.

A perfect example of this is when the NRC lacked judicial expedience and rigor when addressing a high profile case. An Employee Concerns Manager was improperly fired while active and historical where pending against the company's perceived improper actions. The NRC succumb to the might of the corporate lawyers who had more assets backing them then the entire Executive Branch of the US Government. The result was less than a slap on the wrist. When I inquired to the lack of vigor by the Region III NRC, the chief official said, " we had to cut our losses." Meaning the company could drag the NRC through a legal knot-whole that was more than the NRC endure. Case in point, the NRC is required by law to pursue impropriates as mandated by the justice department, to the full extent of the law. This was an accelerated enforcement item that was not treated as such.

The current licensee inspection process hinges on self identification of problems. Process architecture depends on a safety conscious work environment. The NRC back-up inspection process must relay on historical regulatory success for changing the current percieved situation. If not in compliance, why operation should continue?

Bob Meyer

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