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December 13, 1999 tog 70 27 94 121

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

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To the Secretary of the Commission,

To provide for the safety of Americans everywhere, and particularly for those citizens who live in close proximity to nuclear power plants I believe it is imperative that you ensure that the working conditions at a nuclear plant provide the utmost in safety for the public.

Specifically, there should be limits on how many hours an employee can be forced to work, no matter whether the plant is operating or not. Similar rules apply to truck driver, airline pilots, and airplane maintenance employees. Given the fact that a human error at a nuclear power plant could cause injury and death to an even greater number of citizens I find it unconscionable that the same rules do not apply to nuclear plants.

In addition, whistleblowers at nuclear plants should be afforded every possible measure of protection to ensure that they cannot be harassed or intimidated by management when they bring forth safety concerns. "Ignorance of the law" is not an excuse for any other type of illegal behavior and there is no reason this should be acceptable when it comes to nuclear power plants. There have been dozens of cases where employees have alerted the public to serious safety concerns at a plant that would have otherwise been overlooked. I do not believe we should wait for a serious accident such as occurred at Chernobyl before we take measures to prevent this type of situation.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Steven Zack