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Secretary of the Commission
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding two proposed rules the NRC is studying to determine their effect on safety. The first rule establishes limits on employee working hours at nuclear power plants. Studies, as well as common sense, indicate the impairment on judgment which comes when a person is fatigued. It makes sense in the nuclear energy industry, to have rules determining the number of hours a worker can safely perform his or her job. The trucking industry is another industry that has researched and put into effect limits on the hours worked by its employees. In that industry, as should be in the nuclear energy industry, the safety of the workers and the public were tantamount to the decision.

The second proposed rule concerns providing training to supervisors and managers to ensure their awareness of regulations protecting "whistleblowers" from being harassed or intimidated as a result of reporting unsafe conditions. According to my sources, the NRC often excuses those in charge from these regulations based on the rationale that they are unaware of them. As a teacher in the public schools, I cannot fathom such a thing within any system responsible for anything of importance. I cannot imagine my superiors being excused from their actions because they were unaware of the regulations, nor can I imagine a teacher being excused for such a reason. Shouldn't the nuclear industry be at least as responsible to the public and to its workers as the public schools? I would think you would do all you could to encourage workers to step forward with information on conditions that might jeopardize the safety and health of people and the environment.

Please support both the rules discussed above. To do so protects workers, the public and the environment. To neglect to do so is to invite disaster to occur. A proactive stance at this time is much better than a reactive one when a preventable accident occurs.

Thank you for your time and consideration in these matters. Please let me know what decision the NRC makes on these rules.

Sincerely,

Kathi Lindsay

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