

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 12/01/03 EDO CONTROL: G20030685
DOC DT: 11/09/03
FINAL REPLY:

Bob Meyer
Professional Reactor Operator Society

TO:

Chairman Diaz

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** GRN ** CRC NO: 03-0729

Dyer, NRR

DESC:

Fatigue Rule - 16 Hour Wording

ROUTING:

Travers
Norry
Paperiello
Kane
Collins
Dean
Burns/Cyr
Zimmerman, NSIR

DATE: 11/14/03

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:

NRR

Dyer

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Nov 14, 2003 07:53

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-03-0729 LOGGING DATE: 11/14/2003
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Bob Meyer
AFFILIATION:
ADDRESSEE: Nils Diaz
SUBJECT: Fatigue rule--16 hour wording -not the right choice

ACTION: Direct Reply
DISTRIBUTION: Chairman, Comrs

LETTER DATE: 11/09/2003

ACKNOWLEDGED No
SPECIAL HANDLING: Made publicly available in ADAMS via SECY/EDO/DPC
NOTES: SECY to Ack
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 12/01/2003 DATE SIGNED:

EDO --G20030685

From: "Bob Meyer" <RNM1@insightbb.com>
To: <NJD@nrc.gov>
Date: 11/9/03 11:30AM
Subject: Fatigue Rule - 16 Hour Wording - not the right choice

Dr. Diaz,

Here is a news item posted on the News Board of the Professional Reactor Operator Society.

I find it very disturbing that 16 hour work limit is proposed in the new Fatigue Rule (draft).

NRC Fatigue Issue Includes 16 Hours Provision

Under pressure from utility groups, the NRC caves in to allowing the utilities to work licensed operators up to 16 hours straight. This defies the studies and the findings that the NRC has discovered in their research for the basis for the new proposed rule.

NEI, the utilities mouthpiece in Washington has basically stated that it would simply cost too much money for the utilities to change the way they do business.

Meanwhile operators submit condition reports that they are being forced to work 16 hours a day and at times have to be evaluated if they can safely drive home. All this information is available to the NRC as the condition reports and corrective actions are part of the inspection process the NRC uses to monitor the utilities.

Do you want your neighborhood nuclear plants being run by operators who can barely drive home from work?

Workers called in on short notices at the Byron Nuclear Plant have been required to work a midnight shift, followed by a day shift, 16 hours straight. This is with little or no sleep the previous day due to short notice call in. I do not want to see one operator die because of this rule. Cars are much less forgiving with fatigue.

I beg we do the right thing here and limit the working hours to 12 hours.

Bob Meyer
Founder, Professional Reactor Operator Society
President of Domestic and Foreign Affairs
Professional Reactor Operator Society
www.nucpros.com