

NUCLEAR REGULATORY (NRC) COMMISSION HEARING 12/18/13

STEPHEN COMLEY SR PRESENTATION – Objecting to hearing not being recorded for the public record. The NRC is allowing me 5 minutes. What must one do to earn minutes, be President? I have represented 80% of Rowley Citizens and have been investigating Cover-ups & unsafe conditions at U.S Nuclear Plants for over 25 years.

Pass out packets: Letters from individuals & my letters to our First Lady Michelle Obama because President Obama ignored WTP's 3 letters which the White House signed for. **See reasons on page 14 article in New York (NYT) Times.** WTP's Background & experience of investigating cover-ups within the NRC & revealing unsafe conditions at Civilian Nuclear & Weapons Plants **See Enclosure A, Enclosure B- KI stockpiling and enclosure C Law regulating KI and enclosure D substandard Concrete/Grout.**

Read Quotes from NRC informants Page 6 C of first packet.

Read NRC IN notices on page 18 concerning suspect Bogus Parts. Don't ask don't tell.

Page 24 Former Chief of Staff, Leon Panetta sends letter in behalf of WTP to Dept of Justice. **This request was never responded to by the DOJ.**

Page 26 Secretary of Labor Robert B. Reich orders removal of gag from Seabrook's former Level III Welding Inspector, Joseph Wampler. James Padovano Case was Plea Bargained & only went to Jail for 6 months for being found guilty of falsifying Welds at the Seabrook Plant. I have information he did not act alone. Congress never invited me to testify at the Congressional hearings on the Wampler Case.

Page 27 – David Williams, Former Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC IG) Inspector General who White House contacted to respond to WTP concerns. List 5 IG reports.

Page 28 – **Letter from NRC IG office to FBI. This request was never honored.**

Page 43 – **NRC violated The First Amendment Rights of Comley Sr.**

What is really upsetting to me during these past 25 years is when WTP bring evidence forward WTP does not always get to credit for it by the Media or by Politicians who hold congressional hearing on the very evidence WTP brought to light. The reason is not for us to feed anyone's ego or get publicity but so potential whistleblowers know who they can trust in order to get their safety concerns public without the threat of revealing their identities. **60 minutes** I can prove has a reputation of giving up informants names when they refuse to go on Camera. **NYT tried to keep informants from coming to me.**

I have found out WTP cannot trust the Depts. Justice or the FBI to address our concerns so **I am taking WTP letter cause to Michelle Obama** who hopefully will encourage our President to meet with me. In the meantime I am reaching out to Americans citizens especially youth to help awaken the sleeping giant in this country and beyond.

Page 2. Testimony of Stephen B. Comley Sr. at NRC hearing 12/18/13.

I am currently receiving letters of interest requests from Churches, Colleges from within the US & internationally from South Korea, Japan & Russia. I fully intend on honoring these invitations for me to go to these countries and speak on my experiences with cover-ups at the NRC & my knowledge of unsafe conditions within the Civilian Nuclear and Weapon industries. Einstein Said after he cracked the Atom, "To the village square we must take the facts of Atomic energy form there must come the people's voice."

I would like everyone here including NRC employees to consider signing WTP's petition to President Obama & Congress. Luke 18:1-8 Parable of the Persistent Widow. There some things in my life I have found I am not able to walk away from which is my faith, family & my pursuit of Justice. Nuclear Power has no room for fence sitters either you are for Nuclear Power or you are not. American People cannot make a responsible decision if the facts are covered-up & suppressed by the very agency that is supposed to protect them. "A sin by silence when we should protest makes cowards of men." Wilcox.

Questions: regarding Violations of the LAW

1. Am I correct in stating the NRC evacuation requirements are supposed to be set up in the likely not the unlikely event of a Nuclear Disaster at Seabrook? If this is indeed true then President Obama, Governor Deval Patrick, Governor Maggie Hassan, the NRC and Seabrook owners, Florida Power & Light (FPL) are violation of Laws on 3 fronts.

1. These 5 have & are committing discrimination and making the special needs segment of America's population expendable... There must be an acceptable humane evacuation for these citizens. Leaving paralyzed individuals behind to be administered the controversial drug KI to drink is not an acceptable evacuation for anyone. According to the Center for Disease Control & (CDC) Prevention there are serious side effects & radiation fears has (see enclosure B) sparked Substandard KI Pills." That rings a bell.

Is there anyone on the NRC Panel or in the audience today who believes leaving special needs citizens behind to be given KI is acceptable or humane?

2. Even if this unacceptable drug was effective which it is not, the 5 names and agencies mentioned above are in violation of a law for not making sure enough of KI is available within a 20 mile radius. "The public Health (see enclosure C) Security & Bioterrorism Preparedness & Response Act of 2002 expanded the Potassium Iodide distribution radius to 20 miles from 10 miles. President George W. Bush signed the measure into law following the Terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, amid concerns that enemies were planning attacks on American nuclear facilities. Here's the problem, though: Neither Bush nor his successor, President Barack Obama, actually implemented the law mandating broader distribution of the so-call "emergency Pills" containing potassium iodide, which reduce the risk of thyroid cancer in people at risk for inhalation or ingestion of radioiodines,"

Page 3. Testimony of Stephen B. Comley Sr. at NRC Hearing of 12/18/13

For years & currently President Obama, the NRC, Governors Maggie Hassan & Deval Patrick, Seabrook Owners, FPL & all U.S. Nuclear Plants operating today are in violation of these U.S. Laws outlined above..

I have more violations and questions for President Obama to address when I meet with him about the NRC and Seabrook Nuclear Plant involvement in **Cover-ups & penciling away of safety concerns.**

WTP first brought to light the presence of Counterfeit Substandard Parts October 26, 1987 to then President Reagan (outlined in my recent letter to Michelle Obama which the White House signed for May 1, 2013. After I personally gave this troubling information to President Reagan which at that time was present in most U.S. Nuclear Plants including Seabrook, I questioned Seabrook owners about this then and they said, **"Seabrook has no such parts."** Well they lied about that issue then & others I am familiar with. Two years after WTP brought this to light the U.S. General Accounting (GAO) Office Investigative Report entitled Counterfeit Substandard Parts are a Government- Wide Concern listed Seabrook as built with Counterfeit Substandard Fosterers, Pipe fittings/Flanges & Fuses.

Initially the NRC under Victor Stello watch ordered all the plants listed in this GAO report to find & replace all of these bogus parts. But because of pressure from the Nuclear Industry & their Lobbyists who routinely fill a lot of our Politician's War Chests the NRC lower the standards so these parts so the Industry would not have to be replace these components at a cost of a million plus dollars a day to replace one Substandard Bolt. I debated the Vice President of the Nuclear Institute in Wash on NPR in Jacksonville, Fl. During this debate I brought up the fact a Vendor in Conn who was supplying these bogus parts to U.S. Nuclear Plants and the building which housed these records mysteriously burned to the ground the day before the owners was tipped off US Marshals were to seize their records. When I asked the Nuclear Institute representative how those parts could be located now in US Plants he hung up his phone!!

I have further requests of this NRC Panel tonight. Due to the fact this hearing is in connection to the Seabrook Nuclear Plants owners' desire to extend their license from 2030 to 2050, 20 years longer than they were scheduled to operate I believe WTP's information above and below is germane to these proceedings.

Request: #1: As Executive Director of WTP I had in the past requested the NRC to list all the Counterfeit Substandard Parts that built and I understand later replaced in the Seabrook Nuclear Plant and what parts were not replaced and why not. Unfortunately I never got a response. I am officially asking **someone on this NRC Panel to take the responsibility of contacting the NRC official who would be able to send me this information.** |

Requests 2. I would like to know who was in charge of the tracking Counterfeit Substandard Parts while under the Watch of Victor Stello. I am specifically interested in the time frame from 1987 to January 1990 when Mr. Stello was stripped of his desire to become President Bush Nominee to be Assistant Secretary of Energy under Mr. Watkins.

Request 3: As I understand it is the Law that the Seabrook owners must put away decommissioning costs so there is adequate money to dismantle Seabrook Nuclear Plant when it is ultimately shut down. How much money at the present time is set aside for the decommissioning of Seabrook's Plant?

If no one on this NRC panel has this information available please direct the appropriate official to send this information to me as soon as possible.

Request 4: Why hasn't the NRC required the Nuclear Industry to expand the 10 radius as a result of the disasters in Chernobyl and Fukushima in Japan? Sununu was for a reduction to a 1 mile after the Russian Explosion.

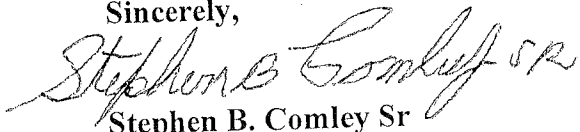
Request 5: I want to encourage any former or present employees of the Seabrook Nuclear Plant or any former or present NRC staff members to know they can trust me to bring me any safety concerns they feel the American People should be made aware of with the understanding their identities would never be revealed.

Request 6: That the NRC approved the DVD of CNN's year and half investigation aired on EARTH MATTERS entitled, INSIDE THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION: INTIMIDATION OR REGULATION to be included in the NRC reference library. In addition the 5 NRC IG Investigative (See enclosure A press articles) Reports brought about by truly Brave Americans who came to We The People with their safety concerns.

I look forward to these requests being addressed as soon as possible.

Thanking you in advance of you prompt attention and understanding in addressing these important concerns requests which is affecting every American Citizen of the United States.

Sincerely,



Stephen B. Comley Sr

Founder of We The People, a National Whistleblower Non Profit Organization.

Enclosures

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Licensee: NextEra Energy, Seabrook, LLC

Facilities: Seabrook Station

Docket Nos: 50-443

Date/ Time: December 18, 2013
Open House 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.
Public Meeting 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Best Western Plus, The Inn at Hampton
815 Lafayette Road
Hampton, New Hampshire 03842
(603) 926-6771

Purpose: The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will host an open house and public meeting with NextEra. The NRC plans to discuss NextEra's testing program and their schedule regarding concrete degradation caused by Alkali-Silica Reaction (ASR) at Seabrook Station.

Participants: NRC

David Lew, Deputy Regional Administrator, Region I (RI)
James Trapp, Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Safety (DRS), RI
Mel Gray, Chief, Engineering Branch I, DRS, RI
William Cook, Senior Reactor Analyst (Team Leader), RI
Michael Marshall, Division of License Renewal,
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

NextEra

Kevin Walsh, Vice President, Seabrook Station
Rick Noble, ASR Project Manager, Seabrook Station
Dr. Oguzhan Bayrak, Director, Ferguson Structural Engineering
Laboratory, University of Texas at Austin

Public Participation: This is a Category 1 Meeting. During the open house, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public and discuss issues or concerns related to the Seabrook Station. Following the open house, the NRC will hold a meeting with NextEra. The public is invited to observe this meeting and will have the opportunity to communicate with the NRC during a question and answer period directly following the business portion of the meeting, but before the meeting is adjourned.

Meeting Contact: Mel Gray, Region I
610-337-5209
E-mail: Mel.Gray@nrc.gov

AGENDA:

- 5:00 – 5:45 p.m. Poster Session (NRC staff, NextEra staff, Other Organizations)
- 6:00 – 6:15 p.m. Opening Remarks by NRC staff
- 6:15 – 7:15 p.m. Presentation by NextEra on Testing Program and Schedule
- 7:15 – 9:00 p.m. Question and Answer Period

Additional information relative to the NRC's oversight of the ASR conditions at Seabrook Station can be found on the NRC's website at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/reactor/seabrook/concrete-degradation.html>

The NRC's Policy Statement, "Enhancing Public Participation in NRC Meetings," effective May 28, 2002, applies to this meeting. The policy statement may be found on the NRC's website, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/policy/67fr36920.html>, and contains information regarding visitors and security.

The NRC provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting, or need the meeting notice or other information from the meeting in another format (e.g., Braille, large print), please notify the NRC's meeting contact. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis. Persons requiring assistance to attend the meeting shall make their requests known to the NRC meeting contact no later than two business days prior to the meeting.

Meetings are sometimes canceled or rescheduled as a result of unforeseen circumstances. Please confirm the meeting schedule on the NRC website under public meetings.

Approved by: /RA/
Mel Gray, Chief
Engineering Branch 1
Division of Reactor Safety

cc: via ListServ

Distribution via email

Executive Director for Operations, OEDO (RIDSEDOMAILCENTER)
 Deputy Executive Director for Reactor Programs, OED (RIDSEDOMAILCENTER)
 Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, NRR (RIDSNNRROD)
 Deputy Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation NRR (RIDSNNRROD)
 Director, Division of Inspection & Regional Support, NRR/DIRS (RIDSNNRRDIRS)
 Director, Division of Operating Reactor Licensing, NRR/DORL (RIDSNNRRDORL)
 Asst. General Counsel Materials Litigation & Enforcement, OGC (RIDSOGCMailCENTER)
 W. Dean, RA
 D. Lew, DRA
 C. ODaniell, ORA
 D. Roberts, DRP
 G. Dentel, DRP
 R. Barkley, DRP
 M. Draxton, DRP
 B. Reyes, DRP
 M. Scott, DRP
 C. Newport, DRP, RI
 P. Cataldo, DRP, SRI
 A. Cass, DRP, AA
 R. Lorson, DRS
 J. Trapp, DRS
 M. Gray, DRS
 W. Cook, DRS
 N. Floyd, DRS
 N. McNamara, SLO
 D. Tiff, SLO
 M. Marshall, NRR, License Renewal
 RidsNrrPMSeabrook Resource
 PNMS
 B. Rini, RI, OEDO
 RidsNrrDorlLpl1-2 Resource

Document Name: G:\DRS\Seabrook Concrete\Media-Pub\Dec 18 Meeting 2013\ASR Public Meeting Notice Dec-18-2013.docx

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML13330A584

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUNSI Review		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly Available <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Publicly Available	
OFFICE	RI/DRS	RI/DRP	RI/DRS		
NAME	WCook/NPF for	GDentel/GD	MGray/MG		
DATE	11/25/2013	11/25/2013	11/25/2013		

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

7



Byfield Parish Church

P.O. Box 335
Georgetown, MA 01833
Phone: 978-352-2022
Fax: 978-352-2863
www.byfieldparish.org

Senior Pastor
Dr. William E. Boylan

Pastor of Administration
and Church Ministries
Rev. Daniel R. Ledwith

Director of Youth Ministries
James MacDonald

Director of Music Ministries
Robert Lathrop

The Honorable Michelle Obama
First Lady of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

July 15, 2013
Certified Mail Receipt

Dear Mrs. Obama,

My name is William Boylan. Reverend Wright and I were two of the longest serving pastors in the United Church of Christ. The Byfield Parish Church that I have served for more than forty-four years, is the first independent Congregational Church in America. We are barely beyond the ten mile radius that marks the mandatory evacuation zone for the nuclear power plant in Seabrook, New Hampshire. After the catastrophe at Chernobyl in 1986, Mr. Stephen Comley Sr., one of our members and the previous owner of the Seaview Nursing Home at the time, contacted the director of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regarding the evacuation plan for special needs residents. He was advised to administer potassium iodide by any staff willing to remain behind in event of an accident. This alarmed Comley since it would make certain residents expendable. At that time, whistleblowers began contacting Mr. Comley, informing him that the Seabrook Plant contained counterfeit substandard parts. Reportedly, this is true of most of the nation's nuclear power plants. As a result Comley formed "We The People" (WTP) a national non-profit whistleblower organization.

Knowing that President Obama wants whistleblowers to be heard, "We The People" seeks a hearing with those like the president who are dedicated to protecting the public. In the past, President Clinton's Chief of Staff Leon Panetta requested that the Department of Justice contact Mr. Comley. Justice refused his request. Likewise the F.B.I. failed to reply to a request by former and first NRC IG, David Williams that the information Mr. Comley handed directly to President Ronald Reagan be investigated. Instead, the Office of the NRC IG threatened to jail Mr. Comley for refusing to betray the whistleblowers.

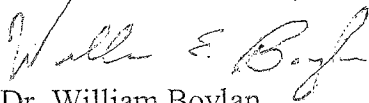
The March 11, 2011 melt-down at the Fukushima #1 plant confirmed the danger posed by unsafe installations. Although signed for, Mr. Comley's letter to you (enclosed) that was received at the White House on May 1, 2013, has yet to be answered. Like the Trinity Church in Chicago, the Byfield Parish Church seeks the nation's good. We dare not remain silent when millions of our fellow Americans are potentially at risk because a watch is not being kept on the nuclear power industry. A text that is central to our self-

OVER
1

understanding as a congregation was spoken to the prophet Ezekiel six centuries before Christ was born. Ezekiel announced, "...The word of the Lord came to me, 'Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me.'" (3:16, 17)

The Comley family has been in the nursing home profession for eighty-five years. Seaview has a sterling reputation in our area. Secretary of State Kerry is well aware of WTP's reputation as an organization and of the high quality of nursing care offered by the owner, Stephen Comley II. Please consider meeting both yourself and the President with Mr. Comley. WTP seeks to assuage the public's fear that we might experience an American Chernobyl or Fukushima. It is important to know that dangers posed by the nuclear industry are either unfounded or will be corrected.

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William E. Boylan".

Dr. William Boylan
cc. Mr. Stephen Comley

Mrs. Michelle Obama p. 2
July 15, 2013

OVER
2

The Honorable Michelle Obama
First Lady of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

April 18, 2013
Certified Mail Receipt

(Signed for by the White House 5/1/13 @ 4:28am)

Dear Mrs. President,

I was hoping to give this letter to you or to a member of your entourage during the Interfaith Service at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross I attended, so I am once again sending it to the White House. My name is Stephen B. Comley Sr. founder of We The (WTP) People a national Whistleblower non profit organization. Enclosed is a copy of the registered letter signed by the White House at 3 P.M I mailed to you on March 17, 2011 which as of this date remains unanswered. The only reasons I can think of is either your staff or you decided not to address my concerns. This letter was accompanied by information & evidence provided to you of corruption at the highest levels of the Nuclear Regulatory (NRC) Commission & former U.S. Presidents.

This information included letters, emails & direct calls placed to your Husband's former Deputy Press Secretary, Mr. Bill Burton, President Obama's on April 26, 2010 & June 20, 2008. These letters were signed for, yet no reply was offered. I also spoke with Bill Burton's assistant who signed for information also on June 20, 2008 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center in Jacksonville, Florida. Since none of these letters & conversations produced a response I am asking average Americans around the country to write to you Mrs. President in hopes you will heed their voices.

The information signed for by the White House at 3 PM on April 4, 2011 also included documents proving I first brought to light the presence of Counterfeit Substandard parts built in most U.S. Nuclear Plants. This evidence ultimately led to a GAO report entitled, "Counterfeit Substandard Parts are a Government-Wide Concern." Your Husband's administration is now the fifth during two decades to ignore my letters concerning this most pressing concern outlined in my letter to you & three letters to President Obama.

More information confirms in January of this year the presence of 500 Counterfeit Substandard Parts (enclosed) were discovered at the construction site of Watts Bar Unit 2 in Tennessee. In addition, a former TVA vice president, Masoud Bajestani (enclosed) was charged & arrested for illegally trying to ship money to his native Iran after he lied to TVA about why he needed the 1.2 million from his retirement account. Mr. Bajestani was in charge of TVA's \$2.5 Billion completion project for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Unit 2 until he was fired.

I would like to not believe the reason my letters have not been addressed is what I & others read in the New York Times article of 2/3/08 (see Pages 10A-E of 3/17/11 letter). "President Obama Chief Political Strategist, David Axelrod worked as a consultant to Exelon, the country's largest nuclear plant operator which is based in Illinois. Exelon also contributed at least \$227,000.00 to President Obama's

Page 2 of April 18, 2013 letter to the First Lady.

Campaigns for the U.S. Senate & for President. Another Obama donor, John W. Rowe, chairman of Exelon, is also chairman of the Nuclear Energy Institute, the nuclear power industry's lobbying group, based in Washington."

Officials in your administration have replied to my letters & concerns while working for past presidents. Former CIA Director, Leon Panetta, sent two letters while Chief of Staff for President Clinton (see Page 13 of letter of 3/17/11) requesting the Department of Justice to get in touch with me but they did not honor his request. The F.B.I. likewise did not reply to the request made by Former & first NRC IG, David William's office (see P. 14 of letter of (see P. 14 of Letter of 3/17/11) to investigate evidence I personally handed to President Ronald Reagan about substandard Parts at a Gala event held for the former President by the Republican Inner Circle of which I am a member but still remain a Registered Independent. The American People have a right to know why these requests of Leon Panetta & David Williams office were never honored or investigated.

After three years of the NRC IG office of threatening me with jail in order to force me to give up the names of braves individuals from the NRC & the Nuclear Industry who came to WTP so their safety concerns could be made public the NRC IG office decided to work with us. WTP was given credit in the four NRC IG investigated reports proving cover-ups within the NRC.

WTP's efforts to reveal the dangers of nuclear power & the NRC have been featured on the Cover of TIME entitled, "Special Investigation: Blowing the Whistle on Nuclear safety: How a Showdown at a Power Plant Exposed the Federal government failure to enforce its own Rules." By the way Vice President Biden was mention in the Time Cover story so he knows of WTP's work. After a year & half investigation of WTP's accomplishments CNN aired on Earth Matters: INSIDE THE NRC: INTIMIDATION OR REGULATION. (# 2 DVDs enclosed) 2nd one is "Control Room Operators."

Jay Carney, President Obama's press Secretary is no stranger to WTP's work. I contacted Mr. Carney April 17, 2006 (see Page 11 & 12 of 3/17/11 letter) & spoke with him in 2008 when he was Time's Washington Bureau Chief. Hopefully Mr. Carney & or Mr. Burton can be asked to locate the information I gave them including the 4 NRC IG investigations brought about by WTP. Former Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton during her Presidential run at a Campaign stop in Virginia took the time to talk with me & promised to look over the same information I had already given to Bill Burton & Jay Carney. Mrs. Clinton did reply back to WTP.

Secretary of State John (also see Pages 11 & 12 of your 3/17/11) Kerry is quite familiar with WTP's work. Our government & the NRC have decided which citizens have value & which are dispensable. Currently, evacuation strategies designed for a nuclear meltdown exclude our grandparents & the mentally handicapped & many of our school aged children. Instead of created a just & fair exit strategy if tragedy struck, the

Page 3 of April 18, 2013 Letter to the First Lady.

Government has supplied bottles of Potassium Iodide for our grandparents & children to swallow & wait as radiation eviscerates our national treasures & the future of our country. These bottles of Potassium Iodide are what inspired me to begin my investigation in what safety measures were taken at our country's nuclear power plants. **My family owns & runs Sea View Nursing Home in Rowley, Massachusetts which lies 12 miles from the Seabrook Nuclear Plant in NH. Victor Stello, then Executive of Director of the NRC in replying to my questions suggested Potassium Iodide be given to special needs citizens administrated by caregivers who would be willing to stay behind in the event of a nuclear accident at Seabrook.** This inhumane treatment lead to my persistent inquires into the Nuclear Industry & the United States Government; I could not stand by & let this go on any longer.


In the wake of tragedies like Fukushima, after decades of being ignored by our elected leadership, it becomes incumbent upon the American People, especially our young people to speak out against the failed oversight of the Nuclear Regulatory (NRC) Commission & the nuclear industry that puts our country at risk. I am circulating petitions including at our educational institutions & churches asking for an investigation by a bipartisan commission, not unlike the 9/11 commission, to evaluate the effectiveness of the NRC before a nuclear catastrophe happens on American soil.

I understand the high demands of your position as First Lady. You have taken it as your cause the health of American's children. No matter how well balanced our children's diet a meltdown on the scale of Chernobyl would eradicate all our children equally whether diabetic, obese or fit.

I ask again for you to respond to my request to meet with you & President Obama. As citizens of this country we have a right to know that every measure has been taken to insure our safety. The Citizens of Rowley MA were the only town in the United States who took the time to sign a petition to former Presidents Reagan & Bush instead they chose to ignore the concerns mothers & fathers had in the evacuation of their children.

First Lady, Michelle Obama, you see the issues of Nuclear Power are secondary to me the real issue is whether together we can prove that Democracy is still alive & well in American. You & President Obama have an opportunity & a responsibility to help me prove especially to our young people that citizens outside the Washington Beltway can make a difference. I look forward to meeting with you both as soon as possible. I can be reached at my E-mail scomleysr@yahoo.com or mail me your response to Stephen B. Comley Sr. 45 Mansion Drive, Rowley, MA 01969. **Cell# 904-206-3114**

Sincerely,


Stephen B. Comley Sr.
Founder of We The People



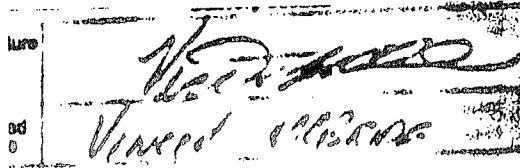
UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE

Date: May 9, 2013

Stephen Comley:

The following is in response to your May 9, 2013 request for delivery information on your Certified Mail™ item number 70123050000129665050. The delivery record shows that this item was delivered on May 1, 2013 at 4:28 am in WASHINGTON, DC 20500. The scanned image of the recipient information is provided below.

Signature of Recipient :



Address of Recipient :



Thank you for selecting the Postal Service for your mailing needs.

If you require additional assistance, please contact your local Post Office or postal representative.

Sincerely,
United States Postal Service

- ALL NH + MA Media

Letter to editor,

The Nuclear Regulatory (NRC) Commission is holding a very important meeting to consider extending their license from 2030 to 2050 just before the holidays on December 18, 2013. This meeting is planned to be held at Best Western Plus, The Inn at Hampton, 815 Lafayette Road, Hampton, NH NRC Open House 5:00 to 5:45 pm, Public Meeting 6:00 – to 9:00 pm. I have been told by a NRC official this meeting will not be recorded for the public record which is no surprise to me. So much for the value of Public input.

I will be presenting evidence the NRC, President Obama & the Seabrook Plant owners are in violation of the Law. I also will present content of conversations I have of very brave informants from inside the NRC and from whistleblowers from the Nuclear Industry who come to me & trust that I will not reveal their identities.. .

I am the founder of We The People a National Whistleblower Non Profit Organization established in 1987 to investigate cover ups at NRC and unsafe conditions at Nuclear Civilian and Weapons Plants. This came about as a result of the former Executive Director of the NRC, Victor Stello, who informed me in writing to leave a paralyzed resident at our family owned and run nursing home behind and administer the controversial drug Potassium Iodide by volunteers who would be willing to stay behind in the event the Seabrook Nuclear Plant blew up. Because my Son's Nursing home & the citizens of Town of Rowley lived outside the 10 mile radius of the so called Safe Zone the NRC said we were not allowed to have a say in the evacuation of our residents at the Nursing Home or for that matter our children even thro they attended Triton Regional School located inside the 10 radius. The whole town was outraged and 80% of the Rowley signed a petition to then President Reagan. Because I was a life member of the Republican Inner Circle and still am (whatever that means) I felt my president would meet with me but instead of proving democracy is still alive and well in America disgracefully Mr. Reagan chose to ignore Rowley's petitions requesting an investigating of the NRC. Likewise now President Obama & our First Lady are still ignoring the 5 letters I sent them. This includes the last letter to Michelle Obama the White House assigned for May 1, 2013.

Because of all the media attention including getting WTP's work featured on the COVER of TIME & CNN's EARTH MATTERS, informants from the NRC and the Nuclear industry contacted me and continue to do so. In the mail I got evidence of Counterfeit Substandard Parts built in most U.S. Nuclear Plants including Seabrook's Plant. Victor Stello then issued a Federal Subpoena which read, "Mr. Stephen Comley Sr. & Roger Fortuna, Deputy Director of the NRC's Office of Investigation are Conspiring to Topple the NRC and if Stephen Comley Sr. does not give up the tape recordings he has made of high level officials in Washington he could be jeopardizing the safety of the American people and the security of U.S. Nuclear Plants from around the country.." Attorney General Thornburgh pursued me in the same court that recently Whitey Bulger occupied for a short time but I was there for over 6 years threatening me with jail if I wasn't willing to give up the names & punish these brave individuals who are willing to place their careers the financial security of their family on the line so the American people can

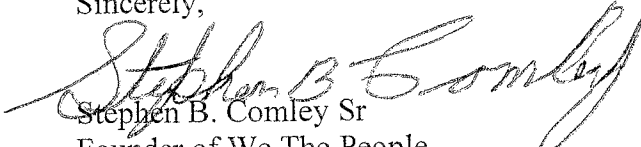
know the truths about cover-ups at the NRC and unsafe conditions at Nuclear Plants.

The 10 mile evacuation Zone is a Joke and irresponsible. Chernobyl affected the cow's milk in Vermont and the fallout from the Fukushima plants in Japan affected our air in MA. Now it's time for us as Americans to rise up in the interest of our grandchildren and their future generations to demand the shutdown of Seabrook's rapid dog living in our neighborhoods.

A lot of people are complaining about the way our government is being run these days and with plenty of reasons but unless we take the time to get involved and make democracy work in our own backyards there isn't any chance change will take place. Let work together so we can prevent a Nuclear Disaster at Seabrook instead of reacting to one.

Hope to see you there with maybe at least some of the media at this meeting. I can assure you it will be very interesting.

Sincerely,


Stephen B. Comley Sr
Founder of We The People.

The Honorable Michelle Obama
First Lady of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

December 5, 2013

Certified Mail Receipt

(Mailed "5 Dec 2013

Dear Mrs. Obama,

Recently I had the pleasure of having lunch with Mr. Stephen Comley, The founder of "We the People", and I listened intently while this man described his concerns about the use of sub-standard counterfeit parts currently in use at numerous Nuclear Plants in our country.

At the time of our lunch, this issue, and the dangers posed by the by-products of nuclear energy, had not been a serious concern of mine. This all changed on Monday when a truck hauling nuclear waste was stolen in Mexico while enroute to a radioactive waste storage facility. I am now convinced that the issues which were raised in Mr. Comley's letter to you (dated April 18th of this year) are very genuine and deserve the attention of our leaders at the highest level in our Government.

Accordingly, I sincerely request that this concern be brought to the President's attention and that a meeting be scheduled with you, President Obama, and Mr. Comley.

I cannot fathom the workload each of you must experience daily, but I am convinced that such a meeting would be to the benefit of the people of our Country.

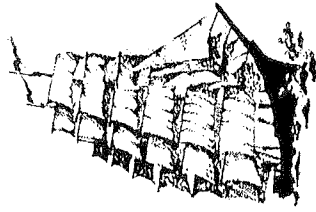
In deep respect,

James W. Shepherd, P.O.Box 316, Georgetown, Ma 01833
cc. Mr. Stephen Comley

....

50

The DAILY



NEWBURYPORT

NEWS

WWW.NEWBURYPORTNEWS.COM

TUESDAY

September 10, 2013

75 CENTS

\$4.05 PER WEEK
HOME DELIVERED

6 Tuesday, September 10, 2013 THE DAILY NEWS

OPINION

The DAILY NEWS

Karen E. Andreas
Regional Publisher

John T. Macone
Editor

Published in Newburyport since 1887

Copyright © 2013

Obama should go to the UN himself

To the editor:

Why isn't the options for President Obama to take in the crisis in Syria include going to the U.N. himself and asking his fellow members to vote to find and seize all the chemical weapons in a peaceful manner? I know that Syria will have to vote to allow this, but since Russian President Putin still maintains Assad did not use these chemical weapons, this vote will put added pressure for Assad to do the right thing and vote to release these weapons to the U.N. assembly.

In any case, if the U.S. wants to remain a creditable member of the U.N. in everyone's eyes, what harm will it do if our president reverses his stance again and takes a more Christian, peaceful avenue with this idea instead of taking the risk of killing more of our innocent brothers and sisters again in another country that will only bring about more violence and hate for America. Let's not forget the bombs given to and used by Saddam Hussein, who was our so-called buddy in Iraq then, to kill hundreds and thousands of innocent Iranians and Muslims came from America. Small wonder why we had the bombings in Boston.

STEPHEN B. COMLEY SR.
Rowley

~~THIS WAS WRITTEN BEFORE PUTIN GOT THE IDEA TO GO
TO THE UN ABOUT THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN SYRIA~~

G

WTP – SPEAKING POINTS – Bring pictures – Jean - 2-Reagan -Sign - Iodide

1. Iodide issue – Picture your grandmother or mother. Human Rights Violation: Expendability of U.S. Citizens to protect the Nuclear Industry profits. Jean was in our care for over 12 years, then – Chernobyl - . This has been my passion for 25 years now. Show Christmas card – Picture of Jean.

2. The Nuclear Industry is a Dinosaur: The Production of electricity by the Civilian Nuclear industry has been a front for years to protect the Nuclear Weapons Industry. Biggest Business in the World is WAR. –START Treaty is a JOKE – OBAMA ADM. The Industry is dangerous, expensive & inefficient. Counterfeit Substandard Parts were downgraded due to the fact the NRC & the Industry did not know where some of these parts were & replacement of these bogus parts threaten not only the profits of the Nuclear Industry but their very existence. It cost over 1 million dollars a day to shut down a plant to replace one Substandard Part. WTP first brought to light the presence of these parts in 1987 when I personally gave them to former President Reagan which he & the White house refused to acknowledge. In 1990 this cover-up by Reagan/Bush Adm & the NRC lead to a **GAO report entitled: “ Counterfeit Substandard Parts are a Government-Wide Concern.”** The thanks I got was Attorney General Thornburg under the Reagan/Bush Adm. issued a Fed subpoena & I spend 6 years in MA Federal Court charging me & former Deputy Director of the NRC office of investigations with **“Conspiracy to Topple the NRC & if I did not release the tape recording I made of high level officials in Washington I could be jeopardizing the safety of the America people & the security of U.S Nuclear Plants.”** During this time my life was threatened & my wife & children were intimidated & frightened when someone at night was around our home while I was in Washington. Due to WTP exposing U.S Companies who were supplying these Substandard Parts those vendors went out of business. Now bogus parts are now being supplied by companies like China. 500 bogus parts were found this year at TVA.

3. Environment: No long term storage solution. High level nuclear waste, according to recent studies, is active for 1 million years - The bi-product of nuclear energy is a check we as American tax payers have been writing for 60 years which our children & grandchildren will only cash at their peril. The Russian disaster in Chernobyl & More recently the Japanese disaster at Fukushima they have lost land for a 1,000 years some say 10,000 in Japan.

4. Whistleblowers: our first line of defense – They have told me they feel like road kill. Over the past 25 years WTP has spent money & energy protecting the brave men & women who risk their careers & the security of their families to expose NRC corruption & the flagrant disregard for safety at our nation’s nuclear power plants. Now because of the Snowden case the Obama Administration has created a chilling effect on informants.

6A

5. WTP NEEDS YOUR HELP – The issue of nuclear power is secondary to me. The real issue is whether together we can prove democracy is still alive & well in America. OBAMA LETTERS –explain. Albert Einstein after cracking the atom said: “ To the village square we must take the facts of Atomic energy from there must come America’s voice. I have decided to take Mr. Einstein advice & will continue to honor requests to speak at colleges, including Harvard where President Obama & the First Lady received their law degrees. I am also honoring requests from churches in US & will be traveling to Russia, Japan South Korea & China in making our cause international. If you decide to help prove democracy is still alive in America & the rest of our World please include the following in your letter to the First Lady. Mrs. Reagan after meeting with me in Concord NH contacted the NRC but that certainly is not the solution but if Michelle Obama gets enough letters sent to her it just may encourage her contact her husband to contact me. I for one truly believe it will work..

If you decide to write a letter to our First Lady please consider including the following topics. To make sure letter is received at White House must be sent Certified Return Receipt. This way the Post Office will verify when White House signed for it.

1. Expendable issue special needs segment of our population is to be left behind & administrated Potassium Iodide in the event of a nuclear disaster.
2. Mention the 2 letters from the NRC’s Inspector General Office which was not honored by the FBI to investigate why President Reagan ignored the evidence I gave to him regarding Counterfeit Substandard parts built in U.S Nuclear Plants throughout the Country. Also mention the fact the former Chief of Staff Leon Panetta instructed the Dept. of Justice to get in touch with me about my concerns of the NRC.
3. Mention Stephen Comley sent a letter (mentioned enclosed) with documents to her that the White House signed for May 1, 2013 but was never answered by you.
4. Please mention you would like the First Lady to schedule a meeting with President Obama, First Lady & Mr. Stephen Comley Sr.
5. Please at bottom of letter indicate enclosures & please declare a copy of your letter sent CC to Mr. Stephen Comley Sr. 45 Mansion Drive, Apt. G, P.O. Box 7, Rowley, MA 01969 Cell # 904-206-3114 scomleysr@yahoo.com

QUOTES FROM NRC STAFF MEMBERS - TO STEVE COMLEY

1. "Seabrook is in the wrong location."
2. "If the people let Seabrook open, it is their own fault."
But the NRC has not been playing a fair game."
3. I said "What do you mean?"
"Whenever safety allegations come into the NRC, which may pose a threat to the further operation or licensing of a nuclear plant, those allegations are pencilled away."
4. "Members of the NRC are mostly engineers so they do not rock the boat because the only place to go after working for the NRC is to work in the industry."
5. "Over the years I have looked at how rotten our agency is in my view. How pro-industry it is. Hey look, if they play it straight and you get stuck with your plant, so be it. Does that make sense? You may not like it but that is the American way, the majority rules. But when I see a system that is designed to thwart the majority or keep the majority ignorant and then one day it happens and you wonder how it happened..That is not fair..That is what turned me off. It is a shame to make you think you are getting a voice..."
6. When a member of the NRC staff was demoted he went to the present chairman and asked "Why?". He was told "What do you expect when you talk about your boss."
7. "The NRC protects the industry more than they protect the people."
8. "We will have a nuclear disaster in the U.S. worse than Chernobyl. It can happen any day because of the way our plants have been constructed and the way they are run." Confirmed by NRC Bulletin 88-05.

(NRC Bulletin 88-05 confirmed existence of counterfeit substandard parts in U.S. nuclear plants across the country.)



InZaneTimes

seeking zanity in an inzane world

Feeds: [Posts](#) [Comments](#)

CLAMS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

August 1, 2013 by [aalpert](#)*You Have Nothing to Lose but the Nukes, and a Solar Future to Gain!*

(<http://inzanetimes.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/steve07worldfellowshipjuly2013099.jpg>)

Stephen Comley addresses the Clams on the World Fellowship lawn. ✕

Ever heard of the "bathtub curve?" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bathtub_curve) It's a principle of reliability engineering that illustrates the failure rates for technology. When a form of technology is new, it has a high failure rate. As the bugs get worked out, failure rates decline. But as the product (<http://inzanetimes.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/bathtubcurve.jpg>)s age, failure rates rise again.

Paul Gunter says the bathtub curve is useful for understanding nuclear reactors. Disasters at Three Mile Island and Chernobyl represented catastrophic failures of relatively new reactors. Fukushima would be an example of failure for an aging reactor. The aging of the US reactor "fleet" means "this is the most dangerous time," Gunter said.

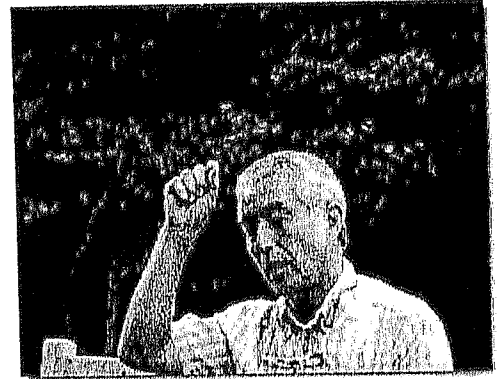
50

<http://inzanetimes.wordpress.com/2013/08/01/clams-of-the-world-unite/>

8/27/2013

Other speakers included Doug Bogen, who's been promoting the potential of offshore windpower from floating turbines in the Gulf of Maine; Naoto Inoue, a solar entrepreneur from Arundel, Maine; and Stephen Comley, who woke up to the dangers of nuclear power when an NRC official told him to stock upon potassium iodide pills for the residents of his Rowley, MA nursing home, 12 miles from the Seabrook reactor.

Spurred to action, Comley organized 80% of town residents to sign a petition for Seabrook to be shut down. As a long-time Republican activist, he even delivered the petitions in person to President Ronald Reagan. He is still talking about nuclear dangers, especially his allegation that counterfeit, substandard parts were installed at 72 reactors, a fact revealed to him years ago by an industry insider. Comley started a group, "We the People," to collect such stories and try to get action from people in high places. At this time he's trying to communicate with Michelle Obama in hopes that she can get through to her husband. (<http://inzanetimes.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/naoto04worldfellowshipjuly2013276.jpg>)



(<http://inzanetimes.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/naoto04worldfellowshipjuly20132761.jpg>)

Paul Gunter said "climate change needs to motivate all of us." That's why it was great to hear from Naoto Inoue, who heads Talmage Solar Engineering (<http://www.talmagesolar.com/solarmarket/talmagesolar.com/>) in Arundel, Maine. From installing photovoltaic (PV) systems at homes on the coast of Maine, Inoue has taken the plunge into large-scale solar generation with a 2.2 megawatt PV installation in Sharon, Vermont. With support from Vermont's pilot "feed-in tariff" program, the solar array can economically provide enough electricity for the entire town.

Doug Bogen says offshore wind is another viable alternative. The state of Maine has a commitm



(<http://inzanetimes.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/doug03worldfellowshipjuly2013138.jpg>)ent to support 5000 megawatts of capacity in the next 20 years, by coincidence the date the Seabrook reactor's license is due to expire. We can't rely on wind for 100% of our energy needs, he said, but the potential is there to replace New England's aging nuclear plants and phase out fossil fuel plants as well. Bogen is promoting the idea that the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, a massive industrial facility sited on a deep water port, would be the perfect place for the massive wind turbines to be manufactured.

SE

Thursday, April 18th, 2013

Healing Our City An Interfaith Service

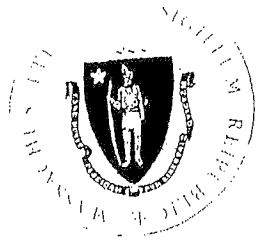
Cathedral of the Holy Cross
1400 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02118

Main Entrance

Doors Open: 8:00 AM

ADMIT ONE

*Tickets are required. For security reasons, please
do not bring bags. Please limit personal items. No
signs or banners allowed.*



Healing Our City An Interfaith Service

April 18th, 2013

Cathedral of the Holy Cross
1400 Washington Street, Boston, MA

ORDER OF SERVICE

PROCESSIONAL:

Music: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

WELCOME:

Welcome & Opening Prayer
Reverend Liz Walker
Roxbury Presbyterian Church

Greeting
Metropolitan Methodios
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston, Brookline

PRAYER & REFLECTION:

Reflection
Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino

Music: "My Life Flows on in Endless Song"

Reflection
Reverend Nancy S. Taylor
Senior Minister & CEO, Old South Church, Boston

Reading from Psalm 147:3
Rabbi Ronne Friedman
Senior Rabbi Temple Israel, Boston

Reflection

Nasser S. Wedaddy
Chair of the New England Interfaith Council
Civil Rights Outreach Director, American Islamic Congress

Reflection

Reverend Roberto Miral
Senior Pastor, Congregación León de Juda, Boston
Music: Boston Children's Chorus

Gospel Reading from Matthew 5:1-12

Bishop John M. Border III
Senior Pastor, Morning Star Baptist Church, Mattap

Reflection

Cardinal Seán O'Malley, OFM Cap

Musical selection performed by Yo-Yo Ma

Reflection

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Governor Deval L.

Reflection

President Barack H. Obama

BLESSING:

Closing Blessing
Cardinal Seán O'Malley, OFM Cap

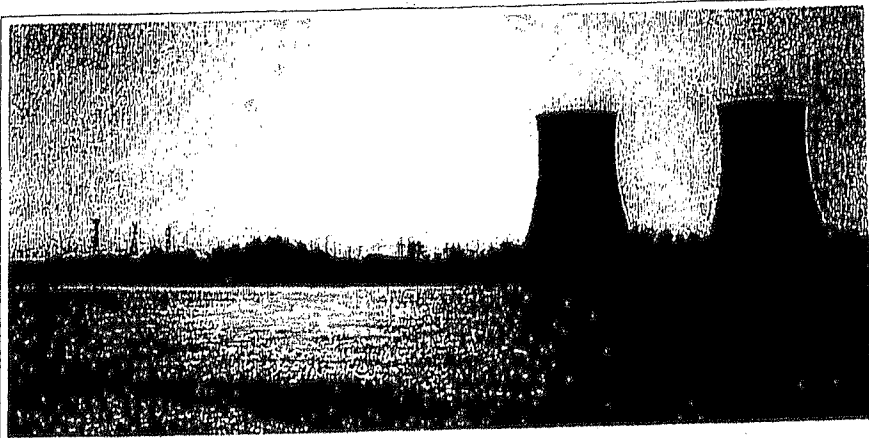
RECESSIONAL:

Music: "Amazing Grace"

Former head of TVA's Watts Bar project arrested

By Dave Flessner

Tuesday, February 5, 2013



The cooling towers of the TVA Watts Bar Nuclear Plant in Spring City, Tenn.
Photo by Associated Press /Chattanooga Times Free Press.

A former Tennessee Valley Authority vice president was charged Monday with illegally trying to ship money to his native Iran after he lied to TVA about why he needed the money.

Masoud Bajestani, the 57-year-old Iranian-born engineer who once headed one of America's biggest nuclear power construction projects, was arrested Sunday at the Atlanta airport after landing on a flight from Dubai.

He appeared in federal court Monday and pleaded not guilty to four felony charges made against him in December by a federal grand jury in Knoxville.

Bajestani, who owns a \$330,000 home in Apison, was in charge of TVA's \$2.5 billion completion project for the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant Unit 2 until he was fired two years ago.

In December, a federal grand jury in Knoxville indicted Bajestani on charges that he conspired with others to invest \$600,000 in Iranian businesses in violation of America's sanctions against Iran.

The indictment said Bajestani lied to TVA to claim a financial hardship for an early withdrawal of \$1.5 million from his deferred compensation account when he was employed as a TVA vice president paid more than \$600,000 a year. TVA terminated Bajestani in January 2011 when the utility determined he had falsely filed a financial hardship claim for early withdrawal from his deferred compensation account.

During a court hearing Monday, U.S. attorneys made a motion before U.S. Magistrate Judge Clifford Shirley Jr. that Bajestani be detained until a hearing in Knoxville on Wednesday.

In a statement released by his office in Knoxville on Monday night, U.S. Attorney Bill Killian said Bajestani faces maximum penalties of up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine for violating the International Emergency Powers Act. For making false statements to TVA to draw down his retirement account early, he faces up to five years of prison and a \$250,000 fine, if convicted.

Bajestani moved to the United States from Iran in 1975 and holds dual citizenship. At TVA, he rose to one of the utility's top nuclear jobs as site vice president in charge of completion of the unfinished second reactor at the Watts Bar plant near Spring City, Tenn.

Bajestani was paid \$619,000 in his final full year at TVA.

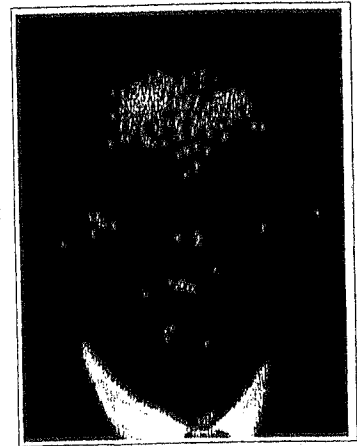
Although he denied any illegal activity, Bajestani said in a divorce proceeding three years ago that he made an early hardship withdraw from his retirement fund because he wanted to invest money in Iran, where the return would be greater. An appellate court in 2010 ruled that Bajestani sent \$600,000 to his brother-in-law in Iran. The transfers were made through a Canadian bank around the time that Bajestani's second wife, Maryam Ghorashi-Bajestani, sued him for divorce.


In the 2010 divorce proceeding, Bajestani testified that he wanted to invest money outside of the U.S. to earn a better return.

"The dollar was losing its value, and I had this opportunity to invest some money outside the U.S. and specifically buy some property back in Tehran, Iran," he said in the divorce case.


Killian said investing money in Iran is illegal under the international sanctions the United States has adopted in response to Iran's alleged nuclear weapons program.

SEE ATTACHED
ARTICLE ON
BOGUS PARTS
AT TVA
WATTS BAR



**TVA News**
Like

615 people like TVA News.



Facebook social plugin

Smart choice for your smart grid

- Reliable and secure
- Cost-efficient
- High reliability
- Modular design

PHENIX CONTACT

More information

ELECTRIC LIGHT & POWER

SUBSCRIBE

About | Advertise | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [RSS](#)

Facebook

6

Twitter

0

LinkedIn

HOME GENERATION T & D METERING EXECUTIVE INSIGHT RENEWABLE ENERGY ENERGY EFFICIENCY CUSTOMER SERVICE SMART GRID

Home > Generation > TVA nuclear parts scrutinized

TVA nuclear parts scrutinized

Share

A problem that surfaced 18 months ago at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant's still-under-construction Unit 2 reactor has resulted in the safety reviews for 500 packages of TVA-purchased parts.

The discovery that not all of the parts -- everything from bolts and fan belts to cables and electrical breakers -- had been tested adequately to assure they would meet nuclear plant safety and quality standards was first made by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission during a September 2011 Watts Bar inspection.

But just over a week ago, TVA filed an event report with the NRC stating that more than 500 packages of parts -- some already installed -- must be evaluated.

"Watts Bar Nuclear Unit 2 has determined that certain equipment components have been installed that may not meet the requirements of the commercial grade dedication process. This condition has the potential to create a substantial safety hazard had it remained uncorrected. Evaluations are being performed," TVA said in the event report.

TVA officials said no hazards have been found so far, but they acknowledge that their new parts reviews must be spread to all of the utility's six operating reactors.

That could involve "thousands more" parts packages, according to TVA spokesman Ray Golden.

"We've determined the cause of why this happened to us. And it's essentially a failure on our part to incorporate an industry update," Golden said Monday.

Work to evaluate the parts, which includes TVA and contract lab testing, has been ongoing at Watts Bar for more than a year, according to Ric Wiggall, head of nuclear engineering for Watts Bar Unit 2 construction.

"All the materials testing done to date has given us acceptable results," Wiggall said. "We've tested about 30 percent of the [Watts Bar] packages."

He said the additional work will not delay completion of the new reactor or drive up expenses.

The reactor is expected to be complete by December 2015 and cost about \$4.5 billion. The reactor originally was expected to be complete in October 2012 at a cost of just under \$2.5 billion.

WHAT HAPPENED?

When work began on Watts Bar's Unit 2 in 2007, it marked the construction start of the only new reactor added to America's nuclear fleet in the past 25 years.

But the safety of reactors begins before the building, and the components for reactors have to be nuclear worthy, according to NRC spokesman Joey Ledford.

"Worthy" components have "gone through an 18-step process for quality assurance before they are certified as nuclear grade," he said.

But finding certified parts has gotten tougher.

"I think what happened is that over the years, it has gotten more difficult for some of the [nuclear plant operators] to get components, so they've gone out on the market to get them themselves," Ledford said. "What we don't know yet is how complete [TVA's] work had been [to assure the purchases were nuclear worthy], Ledford said.

Joe Williams, TVA's general manager for nuclear power engineering, said the problem for TVA was one of rules interpretation.

"We performed an investigation and concluded that the TVA experts who were in charge of the process some years back misinterpreted their procedure as fully meeting the requirements when it did not," Williams said.

He said he knows of no other utilities' nuclear plants in the country with such concerns.

sas THE POWER TO KNOW.

ANALYTICS

Utility executives agree that smarter grids begin with Big Data.

CLICK FOR SURVEY RESULTS

DISTRIBUTECH
CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

JAN. 20-21, 2014
HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

ALSO FEATURING
THE

At the time the NRC initially noticed the problem in 2011, inspectors gave TVA what they called a "nonstated violation" -- essentially a warning and a suggestion that TVA recheck its parts purchases.

Wiggall said the NRC came back this past December to look at TVA's progress on the matter and raised more questions that caused utility officials "to re-evaluate."

"That was when we decided we would conservatively report it [in the Jan. 3 event report]," Wiggall said. "We do not at this point believe there will be any problems. ... What we expect is that when we complete the work and there are no problems, we'll retract it."

Williams said key difference in what TVA had done versus what it now is doing "is an additional level of rigor in verification tests."

Wiggall and Golden said much of the problem is just missing paperwork, and that's what TVA's new tougher testing will provide.

"There are some parts that when you buy them they don't come with the paperwork that would come with them from a nuclear component supplier. So it's incumbent upon TVA in that case to fill that paperwork, do any testing and provide ourselves the assurance that that part would perform its intended function," Wiggall said.

"And that's common in the industry," Wiggall said.

Ledford said it is too soon to say if the NRC will take further action.

"Obviously this is going to take a lot of work on the part of TVA and the NRC to sort out," Ledford said. Our concern is that many of these noncommercial-grade components could be installed in safety-related systems."

Contact staff writer Pam Sohn at psohn@timesfree press.com or 423-757-6346.
Sponsored by

Copyright 2013 Chattanooga Publishing Company

Wire News provided by LexisNexis®

Print

Email

Save

RSS

Font Sizes:



0

6

0

0

6

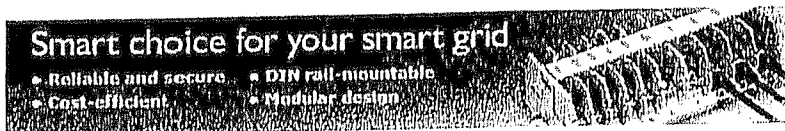
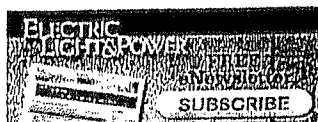
Sponsored by

Facebook

Twitter

LinkedIn

Share



[Home](#) | [Generation](#) | [Transmission & Distribution](#) | [Metering](#) | [Renewable Energy](#) | [Energy Efficiency](#) | [Executive Insight](#)

[Customer Service](#) | [Smart Grid](#) | [Magazines](#) | [Advertise](#) | [About Us](#) | [Buyer's Guide](#) | [Resources](#) | [RSS](#) | [PennWell.com](#)

[PennWell Events](#) | [PennWell Sites](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#) | [Site Map](#)

Copyright © 2013: PennWell Corporation

WEDNESDAY, April 20, 2011 / 24 PAGES, 2 SECTIONS • fbnewsleader.com

Indaunted, he presses on

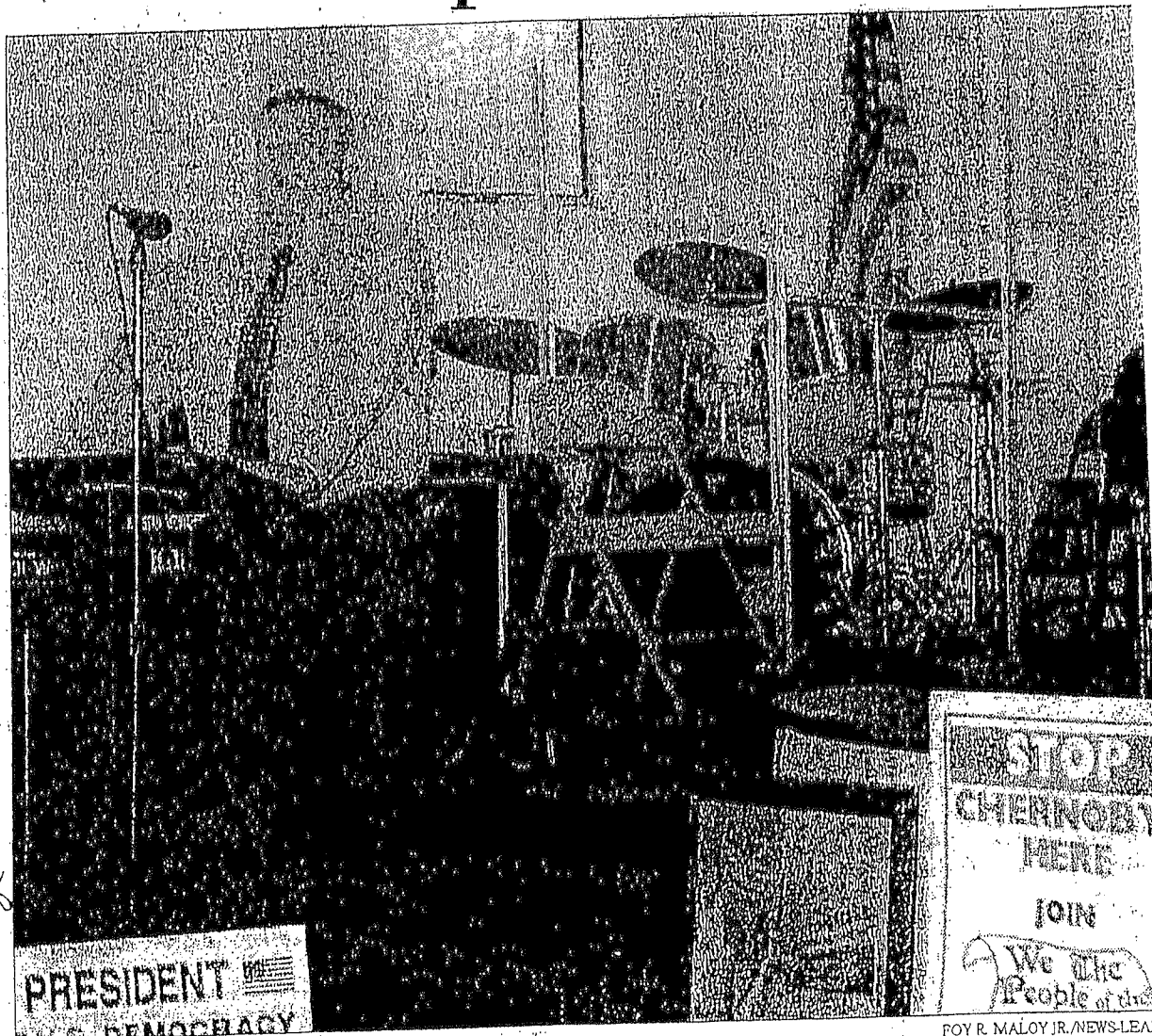
Nuclear energy he launches petition drive

FOY R. MALOY JR.
News Leader

melia Island resident Steve Comley announced a local petition April 13 at the Elm Street Church in Fernandina Beach. The petition urges President Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, Speaker of the House John Boehner and all members of Congress to create an independent commission to investigate the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Comley, the founder of We The People, Inc., a whistleblower protection group organized to oppose the Seabrook Station Nuclear Power Plant in New Hampshire, presented his story and information to the group of local residents for over an hour. Comley's company owns and operates a nursing home 12 miles from the Seabrook facility. This is where his journey begins.

Comley questioned the NRC's evacuation plans of his residents, particularly the physically challenged. He was told to give them potassium iodine and leave them. As a licensed Florida and state nursing home administrator, he found being told certain residents of the population were "inadable" was completely unacceptable.



FOY R. MALOY JR./NEWS LEADER

OVER

COMLEY Continued on 3A

If interested in obtaining additional information, helping to collect petition signatures or to sign the petition, contact Comley at scomleys@yahoo.com or (904) 206-3114

11
(2A)

Comley, a nuclear safety advocate, claimed for more than 25 years – states he has proof of – counterfeit substandard defective parts being at 39 existing nuclear plants in the country, including the four located in Idaho. (72) 1457 39 total of 104 nuclear power plants operate in the U.S. today and many old and outdated, he said. Current plans call for the construction of additional nuclear plants in the future, Comley added.

Compounding his concerns about nuclear safety is 2010 U.S. Census data reporting a 17 percent increase in population over the last 10 years living in the "10-mile emergency planning zones" of existing nuclear power plants. Millions of Americans live within these zones, which are smaller than the area evacuated around the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant in Japan damaged by the earthquake and tsunami there on March 11. The petition addresses the use of counterfeit and substandard defective parts; communities neighboring nuclear plants not having adequate emergency evacuation plans to protect residents; the lowering of safety inspection and quality assurance standards; streamlining of nuclear plant licensing and re-licensing; and concern over storage of hazardous radioactive nuclear waste.

Over the years Comley has given information expressing his concerns to every U.S. president beginning

COMLEY Continued on 3A

COMLEY OVER

Continued from 1A
beginning with Ronald Reagan in 1988, without any interest being exhibited. He has written letters to President Obama three times since 2008 and recently to First Lady Michelle Obama, without a reply. He accuses the NRC and federal government of a cover-up of concerns dating back to the Three Mile Island accident in Pennsylvania in 1979. At one point, the U.S. government threatened him in court for six years to give up the names of sources.

For the past three weeks Comley has walked the floors of the Florida House of Representatives and Senate, delivering and discussing his concerns with every elected official or in staff.

Comley's efforts have been reported in the media throughout the years without any progress being made, he said.



Last week, Comley and a representative from the NRC were guests on the WJCT 89.9 radio show First Coast Connect.

Comley's distrust of the NRC and the lack of concern of elected officials led him to create the petition. His passion, drive and commitment to insuring the safety of the public and the nation's nuclear

power plants are dauntless, he added. He states that he "simply wants to hold the government accountable and keep the U.S. population safe."

If interested in obtaining additional information, helping to collect petition signatures or to sign the petition contact Comley at scomleysr@yahoo.com or (904) 206-3114.

jmaloy@fbnewsleader.com

PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEVE COMLEY



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE COMLEY

Nuclear safety advocate Steve Comley makes his case to a small crowd April 13 at the Elm Street Church of God, top. Comley presented his concerns, including a banner, to President Reagan in 1988, to no avail. He has been pressing his nuclear safety campaign for more than 25 years.



Steve Comley leads a rally outside of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C.

The New York Times
nytimes.com

FROM
DIRECTOR
TERRENCE
MALICK

February 3, 2008

Nuclear Leaks and Response Tested Obama in Senate

By MIKE McINTIRE

When residents in Illinois voiced outrage two years ago upon learning that the Exelon Corporation had not disclosed radioactive leaks at one of its nuclear plants, the state's freshman senator, Barack Obama, took up their cause.

Mr. Obama scolded Exelon and federal regulators for inaction and introduced a bill to require all plant owners to notify state and local authorities immediately of even small leaks. He has boasted of it on the campaign trail, telling a crowd in Iowa in December that it was "the only nuclear legislation that I've passed." *"DID NOT PASS"*

"I just did that last year," he said, to murmurs of approval.

A close look at the path his legislation took tells a very different story. While he initially fought to advance his bill, even holding up a presidential nomination to try to force a hearing on it, Mr. Obama eventually rewrote it to reflect changes sought by Senate Republicans, Exelon and nuclear regulators. The new bill removed language mandating prompt reporting and simply offered guidance to regulators, whom it charged with addressing the issue of unreported leaks.

Those revisions propelled the bill through a crucial committee. But, contrary to Mr. Obama's comments in Iowa, it ultimately died amid parliamentary wrangling in the full Senate.

"Senator Obama's staff was sending us copies of the bill to review, and we could see it weakening with each successive draft," said Joe Cosgrove, a park district director in Will County, Ill., where low-level radioactive runoff had turned up in groundwater. "The teeth were just taken out of it."

The history of the bill shows Mr. Obama navigating a home-state controversy that pitted two important constituencies against each other and tested his skills as a legislative infighter. On one side were neighbors of several nuclear plants upset that low-level radioactive leaks had

10 A
13

gone unreported for years; on the other was Exelon, the country's largest nuclear plant operator and one of Mr. Obama's largest sources of campaign money.

Since 2003, executives and employees of Exelon, which is based in Illinois, have contributed at least \$227,000 to Mr. Obama's campaigns for the United States Senate and for president. Two top Exelon officials, Frank M. Clark, executive vice president, and John W. Rogers Jr., a director, are among his largest fund-raisers.

Another Obama donor, John W. Rowe, chairman of Exelon, is also chairman of the Nuclear Energy Institute, the nuclear power industry's lobbying group, based in Washington. Exelon's support for Mr. Obama far exceeds its support for any other presidential candidate.

In addition, Mr. Obama's chief political strategist, David Axelrod, has worked as a consultant to Exelon. A spokeswoman for Exelon said Mr. Axelrod's company had helped an Exelon subsidiary, Commonwealth Edison, with communications strategy periodically since 2002, but had no involvement in the leak controversy or other nuclear issues.

The Obama campaign said in written responses to questions that Mr. Obama "never discussed this issue or this bill" with Mr. Axelrod. The campaign acknowledged that Exelon executives had met with Mr. Obama's staff about the bill, as had concerned residents, environmentalists and regulators. It said the revisions resulted not from any influence by Exelon, but as a necessary response to a legislative roadblock put up by Republicans, who controlled the Senate at the time.

"If Senator Obama had listened to industry demands, he wouldn't have repeatedly criticized Exelon in the press, introduced the bill and then fought for months to get action on it," the campaign said. "Since he has over a decade of legislative experience, Senator Obama knows that it's very difficult to pass a perfect bill."

Asked why Mr. Obama had cited it as an accomplishment while campaigning for president, the campaign noted that after the senator introduced his bill, nuclear plants started making such reports on a voluntary basis. The campaign did not directly address the question of why Mr. Obama had told Iowa voters that the legislation had passed.

Nuclear safety advocates are divided on whether Mr. Obama's efforts yielded any lasting benefits. David A. Lochbaum of the Union of Concerned Scientists agreed that "it took the introduction of the bill in the first place to get a reaction from the industry."

"But of course because it is all voluntary," Mr. Lochbaum said, "who's to say where things will be a few years from now?"

10B 14

Others say that turning the whole matter over to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, as Mr. Obama's revised bill would have done, played into the hands of the nuclear power industry, which they say has little to fear from the regulators. Mr. Obama seemed to share those concerns when he told a New Hampshire newspaper last year that the commission "is a moribund agency that needs to be revamped and has become a captive of the industry it regulates."

Paul Gunter, an activist based in Maryland who assisted neighbors of the Exelon plants, said he was "disappointed in Senator Obama's lack of follow-through," which he said weakened the original bill. "The new legislation falls short" by failing to provide for mandatory reporting, said Mr. Gunter, whose group, Beyond Nuclear, opposes nuclear energy.

The episode that prompted Mr. Obama's legislation began on Dec. 1, 2005, when Exelon issued a news release saying it had discovered tritium, a radioactive byproduct of nuclear power, in monitoring wells at its Braidwood plant, about 60 miles southwest of Chicago. A few days later, tritium was detected in a drinking water well at a home near the plant, although the levels did not exceed federal safety standards.

At least as disturbing for local residents was the revelation that Exelon believed the tritium came from millions of gallons of water that had leaked from the plant years earlier but went unreported at the time. Under nuclear commission rules, plants are required to tell state and local authorities only about radioactive discharges that rise to the level of an emergency.

On March 1, Mr. Obama introduced a bill known as the Nuclear Release Notice Act of 2006. It stated flatly that nuclear plants "shall immediately" notify federal, state and local officials of any accidental release of radioactive material that exceeded "allowable limits for normal operation."

To flag systematic problems, it would also have required reporting of repeated accidental leaks that fell below those limits. Illinois' senior senator, Richard J. Durbin, a fellow Democrat, was a co-sponsor, and three other senators, including Hillary Rodham Clinton, Democrat of New York, later signed on. But Mr. Obama remained its primary champion.

In public statements, Mr. Obama dismissed the nuclear lobby's arguments that the tritium leaks posed no health threat.

"This legislation is not about whether tritium is safe, or at what concentration or level it poses a threat," he said. "This legislation is about ensuring that nearby residents know whether they may have been exposed to any level of radiation generated at a nuclear power plant as a result of an unplanned, accidental or unintentional incident."

10 C 15

Almost immediately, the nuclear power industry and federal regulators raised objections to the bill.

The Nuclear Energy Institute jumped out in front by announcing its voluntary initiative for plant operators to report even small leaks. An Exelon representative told an industry newsletter, Inside N.R.C., that Exelon was "working with Senator Obama's office to address some technical issues that will allow us to support the legislation."


Last week, an Exelon spokesman, Craig Nesbit, said the company sought, among other things, new language to specify what types of leaks should be reported, and assurance that enforcement authority remained with the nuclear commission and not state or local governments.


"We were looking for technical clarity," Mr. Nesbit said.

Meanwhile, the nuclear commission told Mr. Obama's staff that the bill would have forced the unnecessary disclosure of leaks that were not serious. "Unplanned releases below the level of an emergency present a substantially smaller risk to the public," the agency said in a memorandum to senators, which ticked off about a half-dozen specific concerns about the bill.

Senate correspondence shows that the environment committee chairman at the time, Senator James M. Inhofe, Republican of Oklahoma who is a strong supporter of industry in battles over energy and environmental legislation, agreed with many of those points and held up the bill. Mr. Obama pushed back, at one point temporarily blocking approval of President Bush's nominee to the nuclear commission, Dale E. Klein, who met with Mr. Obama to discuss the leaks.

But eventually, Mr. Obama agreed to rewrite the bill, and when the environment committee approved it in September 2006, he and his co-sponsors hailed it as a victory.

 In interviews over the past two weeks, Obama aides insisted that the revisions did not substantively alter the bill. In fact, it was left drastically different.

 In place of the straightforward reporting requirements was new language giving the nuclear commission two years to come up with its own regulations. The bill said that the commission "shall consider" — not require — immediate public notification, and also take into account the findings of a task force it set up to study the tritium leaks.

By then, the task force had already concluded that "existing reporting requirements for abnormal spills and leaks are at a level that is risk-informed and appropriate."

100 16

The rewritten bill also contained the new wording sought by Exelon making it clear that state and local authorities would have no regulatory oversight of nuclear power plants.

In interviews last week, representatives of Exelon and the nuclear commission said they were satisfied with the revised bill. The Nuclear Energy Institute said it no longer opposed it but wanted additional changes.

The revised bill was never taken up in the full Senate, where partisan parliamentary maneuvering resulted in a number of bills being shelved before the 2006 session ended.

Still, the legislation has come in handy on the campaign trail. Last May, in response to questions about his ties to Exelon, Mr. Obama wrote a letter to a Nevada newspaper citing the bill as evidence that he stands up to powerful interests.

"When I learned that radioactive tritium had leaked out of an Exelon nuclear plant in Illinois," he wrote, "I led an effort in the Senate to require utilities to notify the public of any unplanned release of radioactive substances."

Last October, Mr. Obama reintroduced the bill, in its rewritten form.

Copyright 2008 The New York Times Company

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Search](#) | [Corrections](#) | [RSS](#) | [First Look](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Site Map](#)

10 E 17

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
OFFICE OF NEW REACTORS
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, DC 20555-0001

February 15, 2011

NRC INFORMATION NOTICE 2011-01: COMMERCIAL-GRADE DEDICATION ISSUES
IDENTIFIED DURING NRC INSPECTIONS

ADDRESSEES

All holders of an operating license or construction permit for a nuclear power reactor issued under Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities," except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

All holders of or applicants for an early site permit, standard design certification, standard design approval, manufacturing license, or combined license issued under 10 CFR Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants."

All holders of or applicants for a license for a fuel cycle facility issued pursuant to 10 CFR Part 70, "Domestic Licensing of Special Nuclear Material," or 10 CFR Part 40, "Domestic Licensing of Source Material."

All vendors that supply basic components to NRC-licensed facilities.

PURPOSE

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing this information notice (IN) to summarize the NRC staff's observations and findings in the area of commercial-grade dedication (CGD), as it applies to operating reactors, over the previous 2 years. The NRC expects recipients to review the information and to consider actions, as appropriate, to review lessons learned and avoid similar problems. Suggestions contained in this IN are not NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

DESCRIPTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES

This IN summarizes NRC staff findings from vendor inspections related to CGD performed over the last 2 years. The NRC Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and Office of New Reactors perform vendor inspections; one of the areas covered in these inspections is CGD. CGD is the acceptance process undertaken to provide reasonable assurance that a commercial-grade item to be used as a basic component will perform its intended safety function and, in this respect, is deemed equivalent to an item designed and manufactured under a quality assurance (QA) program under Appendix B, "Quality Assurance Criteria for Nuclear Power Plants and Fuel Reprocessing Plants," to 10 CFR Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization

ML103220180

(10 F)

18



COUNCIL:
GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY &
ACCOUNTABILITY

COMMITTEE:
HEALTH QUALITY

CHAIR:
URBAN AND LOCAL AFFAIRS

February 6, 2008

Stephen Comley Sr.
1882 Capital Circle NE, Suite 206
Tallahassee, FL 32308

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as a letter of support for the organization We The People Inc., of the US. and for demanding an Independent Commission to investigate the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). I believe this is a very important step and the citizens of this country should have the right to have a say in whether we should build 50 or more nuclear plants in the U.S. not just individual officials. I, myself, have signed this petition and urge others to do so as well. I fully support this endeavor and commend all those that lead this great organization and cause.

Sincerely,

Julio Robaina
State Representative, District 117

RESPOND TO:

□ District Office
6741 SW 24 ST. Suite 19
Miami, FL 33155
Ph: (305) 442-6868
Px: (305) 442-6870

□ Tallahassee Office
317 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Ph: (850) 488-6806
Px: (850) 414-6881

OVER

WTP – SPEAKING POINTS – Bring pictures – Jean - 2-Reagan -Sign - Iodide

1. Iodide issue – as Human Rights Violation: Expendability of U.S. Citizens to protect the Nuclear Industry profits. Jean was in our care for over 12 years. then – Chernobyl - . This has been my passion for 25 years now. Show Christmas card – Picture of Jean.

2. The Nuclear Industry is a Dinosaur: The Production of electricity by the Civilian Nuclear industry has been a front for years to protect the Nuclear Weapons Industry. Biggest Business in the World is WAR. –START Treaty is a JOKE – OBAMA ADM. The Industry is dangerous, expensive & inefficient. Counterfeit Substandard Parts were downgraded due to the fact the NRC & the Industry did not know where some of these parts were & replacement of these bogus parts threaten not only the profits of the Nuclear Industry but their very existence. It cost over 1 million dollars a day to shut down a plant to replace one Substandard Part. WTP first brought to light the presence of these parts in 1987 when I personally gave them to former President Reagan which he & the White house refused to acknowledge. In 1990 this cover-up by Reagan/Bush Adm & the NRC lead to a **GAO report entitled: “ Counterfeit Substandard Parts are a Government-Wide Concern.”** The thanks I got was Attorney General Thornburg under the Reagan/Bush Adm. issued a Fed subpoena & I spend 6 years in MA Federal Court charging me & former Deputy Director of the NRC office of investigations with **“Conspiracy to Topple the NRC & if I did not release the tape recording I made of high level officials in Washington I could be jeopardizing the safety of the America people & the security of U.S Nuclear Plants.”** During this time my life was threatened & my wife & children were friathened when someone at night was around our home while I was in Washington. Due to WTP exposing U.S Companies who were supplying these Substandard Parts those vendors went out of business. Now bogus parts are now being supplied by companies like China. 500 bogus parts were found this year at TVA.

3. Environment: No long term storage solution. High level Nuclear waste, according to recent studies, is active for 1 million years - The bi-product of nuclear energy is a check we as American tax payers have been writing for 60 years which our children & grandchildren will only cash at their peril.

4. Whistleblowers: our first line of defense – They have told me they feel like road kill. Over the past 25 years WTP has spent money & energy protecting the brave men & women who risk their careers & the security of their families to expose NRC corruption & the flagrant disregard for safety at our nation’s nuclear power plants. Now because of the Snowden case the Obama Administration has created a chilling effect on informants.

5. WTP NEEDS YOUR HELP – The issue of nuclear power is secondary to me. The real issue is whether together we con prove democracy is still alive & well in America. OBAMA LETTERS –explain. Albert Einstein after cracking the atom said: “ To the village square we must take the facts of Atomic energy from there must come America’s voice. I have decided to take Mr. Einstein advice & will continue to honor requests to speak at colleges, including Harvard where President Obama & the First Lady received their law degrees. I am also honoring requests from churches in US & will be traveling to Russia & Japan in making our cause international.

OVER

Idea for the NRC

KEENE (NH) SENTINEL

Sunday, March 23, 2008

During the 1990s, no one in New England was more critical of nuclear power plant safety, or more of a pain in the neck about it, than Steve Comley. What a pest. The head of a nuclear whistleblowers organization called We the People, Comley tried to button-hole politicians and tell them about what he believed to be precarious situations at nuclear plants. He provided a forum for nuclear-plant workers, and even for some staff members at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission who wanted to speak out anonymously. And he used to pepper news organizations, in grammatically challenged letters, with what he said was insider information about poor management at nuclear power plants — especially at Northeast Utilities plants in Connecticut.

He showed up in Time magazine, which did a devastating cover story charging: "Two gutsy engineers in Connecticut have caught the Nuclear Regulatory Commission at a dangerous game that it has played for years: routinely waiving safety rules to let plants keep costs down and stay online." Time's principal sources were Comley and his whistleblowers, the people and information he had been trying to persuade politicians to take seriously for years. CNN did a similar report. An independent audit of Northeast Utilities was conducted by the state of Connecticut, and it was damning. The NRC issued some tough new rules.

It was quite the scandal. But scandals fade.

Now Comley is back. After spending a decade in Florida, raising Cain about unrelated matters, he has again turned his attention to nuclear power. Despite the Time story and its aftermath, he says, for years the NRC has allowed dozens of U.S. nuclear plants to use counterfeit and substandard parts. Now he's concerned because the commission is making plans to allow the construction of 50 more nuclear plants. Comley says We the People really has the goods on laxness at the NRC. All it needs is a major news organization with the time and resources to blow the top off the agency. He's now firing off awkward letters and e-mails to that effect on a regular basis.

All of which brings us to the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant, over the river in Vernon, Vermont. In 2006, the NRC allowed Vermont Yankee to increase its power output, despite appeals from concerned neighbors asking that an independent safety inspection be done first. Now the NRC is on the verge of granting the plant a 20-year extension of its operating license, which is supposed to expire in 2012.

Area legislators in Chesterfield, Hinsdale and Winchester have appealed for federal help to have the plant inspected by independent experts. Massachusetts officials, including that state's attorney general, have made similar appeals, as has the governor of Vermont and the Vermont Senate. Legislation to let neighboring states request — but not require — independent safety assessments for all nuclear plants is supported in the U.S. House by Peter Welch of Vermont, Paul Hodes and Carol Shea-Porter of New Hampshire and Edward Markey and John Olver of Massachusetts. A companion bill was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

But, amid all this activity, Steve Comley has a different idea. In recent weeks he has been trying to interest Senators Hillary Clinton, John McCain and Barack Obama in his causes, asking them to join him in demanding a different inspection effort.

If we can't get independent investigations of aging nuclear plants, how about an independent investigation of the NRC itself?

Here's sample prose from a recent letter:

"Recent NRC rules streamline the nuclear plant licensing & re-licensing process by limiting public participation, lowering safety inspections & quality assurance standards applicable to nuclear components form (sic) nuclear to commercial grade in new facilities to reduce construction costs & time."

When Comley similarly warned about problems with nuclear plants back in the 1990s, a lot of respectable folks — politicians, utility spokesmen, most reporters and editors — wouldn't have anything to do with him. Heck, the guy doesn't know his "and" from his ampersand. But Comley and his whistleblowers were right on the money.

An independent investigation of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission? Why not?



Byfield
Parish
Church

St Pastor
William E. Boylan
(978) 352-2022

OTHER COLLEGES
SHOWING INTEREST

November 1, 2007

Mr. Daniel Tyman
Gordon College
Wenham, MA

Dear Dan,

At 1:23 AM on April 26, 1986, Steve Comley's life change although he did not know so at the time. That was the moment when a flawed reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant covered the region with a radioactive cloud. The city became an irradiated wasteland. Fallout from the accident was detected in Vermont. Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians were displaced. Radiation sickness afflicted thousands. As a result, Steve wrote to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to ask for their plans to evacuate Seaview Nursing Home since it is near the Seabrook nuclear plant. The agency had no plan. When Steve was advised to give the bedridden iodine to ease their death he was angry.

Once it was known that Steve understood that the NRC was acting like the guard dog and not the watchdog of the industry, he took action. That was when those in the know began to inform him of the fact that the plants were being built with sub-standard parts. When Steve founded "We the People" it became his responsibility to protect his informants. The Federal Government used the court in an attempt to force him to betray those who purportedly divulged information on the dangers posed by American plants. At first he was fined \$500 a day and later \$1000. Steve could not in good conscience betray workers whose careers and perhaps lives were in jeopardy. John wrote, "Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written." If Steve's past 21 years were chronicled they would constitute volumes.

Steve has begun to tell his story to the present college generation. He is a top national expert in the matter of nuclear safety. His faith in Christ is solid. Throughout he has acted with integrity. His presence on the Gordon campus would be a significant educational experience for the students. As for me, I believe it would benefit Gordon students to hear from this fellow Christian whom history will, I believe, applaud.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. William E. Boylan

P.O. Box 335, Georgetown, Massachusetts 01833

Keene Sentinel

OPINION PAGE

ed by Guy MacMillin

New Hampshire

Established in 1799

Editorial

Comley vindicated

S. nuclear power plants are safer today than they were a week, and they're likely to be even safer in the weeks and months to come. You can thank Time magazine for that,

**Time magazine cover story
embarrassed the NRC
into action.**

along with some dedicated folks who put their careers and their financial security on the line in the interest of public safety.

The Keene Sentinel published its first editorial about the nuclear-whistleblowers organization We the People in March 1992. At

that time, its director, Steve Comley, was threatened with fines and a jail term for refusing to tell a federal judge where he got information about lax practices at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Comley didn't go to jail, but he refused to deal on his informants. He still owes the government about \$400,000 in fines.

Comley was alleging something we in New Hampshire had seen firsthand during the battle to build the Seabrook nuclear plant: To allow nuclear plants to be built and keep running, the NRC would ignore or repeal its own safety rules. In the case of Seabrook, the NRC's dereliction of duty was in full public view; Comley had evidence that it was going on behind the scenes, as well.

Over the years, when he tried to bring this evidence to the attention of the powers that be, he sometimes received indifferent courtesy letters. More often, he was just hustled away. He was arrested on the floor of the New Hampshire Legislature, and was thrown out of a restaurant when he tried to talk to then-President Bush. Last month, he was thrown out of a Dole-for-president rally, as former senator Warren Rud-

man looked on and refused to intervene.

Comley did get to hand some documents to President Clinton, but there's no evidence the president or anyone else read them. Shirley Ann Jackson, the head of the NRC, refused to meet with Comley; she wrote him earlier this year that such a meeting would serve no purpose.

The press was only slightly more kind. With a few exceptions — The Sentinel, the Derry News and The Day of New London, Connecticut — reporters and editors largely ignored Comley's press releases.

Then came the March 4 cover story in Time magazine. The headline: "Two gutsy engineers in Connecticut have caught the Nuclear Regulatory Commission at a dangerous game that it has played for years: routinely waiving safety rules to let plants keep costs down and stay online."

Those gutsy engineers worked for Northeast Utilities and had gone to We the People with their accusations. The devastating Time expose was based almost exclusively on the very information Comley had been trying to persuade politicians and the news media to take a look at.

Once Time got into the fray, the official reaction did not take long in coming. Last weekend, the NRC gave Northeast Utilities 30 days to show that two of its Connecticut nuclear plants — Millstone 3 and Connecticut Yankee — are safe. If not, the NRC said, the plants would be shut down.

The next day, The Boston Globe reported, "Federal nuclear-power regulators have expanded their investigation of New England's largest utility to question whether four of its five reactors violated their operating licenses ..."

The New York Times noted, in a front-page story: "The threat to shut down the two operating reactors is an unusually strong step by the commission, and comes only a week after a cover article in Time magazine reported that the commission had failed to enforce its own regulations at the Millstone 1 plant and elsewhere. ... At a briefing Friday on the commission's actions, Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, the commission chairwoman, referred to the Time article, saying the agency should regard it 'as a form of constructive criticism and move forward.'"

That's from the woman who just a few weeks ago told Steve Comley to take a hike.

So this is a positive story about one man's determination, and about the power of the press — albeit difficultly aroused — to cut through official indifference to public safety. Nuclear-plant operators around the country are now on notice: No more shortcuts; the NRC can be embarrassed into doing its job. And Steve Comley is now vindicated. Meanwhile, a lot of other people and institutions have some explaining to do.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 22, 1996

Mr. Stephan B. Comley
Executive Director
We the People, Inc. of the United States
Post Office Box 277
Rowley, Massachusetts 01969

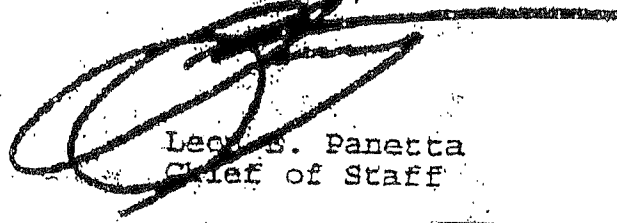
Dear Mr. Comley:

Thank you for your fax of October 10, 1996. I am sorry to hear that you have not yet received a letter from the Department of Justice regarding your concerns with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

Once again, I have forwarded your fax to the Department of Justice (DOJ) and asked that they respond to you directly. DOJ is the appropriate agency to assist you in dealing with your complaints with the NRC.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Leo S. Panetta
Chief of Staff

cc: The Department of Justice

*

Investigation was never
conducted, but it will be!

LEP/tab

About AP Contact Us Get AP Mobile Help

News
Archive
BETA

Like 0 Tweet 0 0 More Text

WASH AP

REPORT: NRC LAX IN ENFORCING SOME SAFETY REGULATIONS

AP, Associated Press

Feb. 25, 1996 5:39 PM ET

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal inspectors failed to stop nuclear plants from storing spent-fuel rods in a way that violated federal safety regulations, according to a magazine report that suggests the Nuclear Regulatory Commission instead focuses on propping up the embattled industry.

Time magazine reports, in its editions on newsstands Monday, on a fight over safety issues at the Millstone Unit 1 nuclear plant in Waterford, Conn., since 1992.

Every 18 months, the reactor was shut down for a routine refueling. During the shutdown, spent fuel rods are taken from the reactor's core and placed in racks in a 40-foot deep pool of water, next to racks of older spent fuel rods.

Because the federal government has never set up a site to store high-level radioactive waste, U.S. nuclear plants have built up thousands of these rods in their cooling pools.

The pools must have elaborate back-up cooling systems to ensure they are submerged at all times and help dissipate their heat. If the water became too hot, the pool would give off radioactive steam.

Federal guidelines require that older plants, including Millstone, that have less sophisticated cooling systems move only one-third of their spent rods into their pools.

But, Time reports, an engineer named George Galatis realized in March 1992 that Millstone was routinely putting all its hot fuel rods into its cooling pool at one time.

By doing that, Northeast Utilities, which operated Millstone, was avoiding an additional two weeks of shutdown during each refueling — saving it the \$500,000 a day it must pay for replacement power when the nuclear plant is shut down.

Galatis told Time he repeatedly tried to get company officials to address the problem. Eventually, he reported the matter to the NRC, but the agency took months to respond, the magazine reported, then told Northeast Utilities about Galatis' charges — a breach of confidentiality the NRC says was "inadvertent."

"When a safety issue is too expensive for the industry, the NRC pencils it away," charged Stephen Comley, executive director of a whistle-blower support group called We the People. "If the NRC enforced all its rules, some of the plants we've studied couldn't compete economically."

The nuclear industry, on the other hand, says that many NRC rules unnecessarily increase costs without doing anything to improve safety.

"The regulatory system hasn't kept pace with advances in technology," said Steve Unglesbee, spokesman for the Nuclear Energy Institute, a trade group. "Industry-wide our safety record is improving. But NRC creates so many layers of regulation that every plant is virtually assured of being in noncompliance with something."

Says the NRC's acting inspector general, Leo Norton: "It didn't receive the attention that more obvious safety concerns got."

© 2013 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed. Learn more about our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1994

Sruling moves gag om critic Seabrook

By John Milne
GLOBE STAFF

CONCORD, N.H. — Ten years after Joseph D. Wampler was fired for raising safety concerns at the Seabrook nuclear power plant, the Labor Department has ruled he can tell his side of the story publicly.

The Feb. 14 decision by Secretary of Labor Robert B. Reich, obtained by the Globe yesterday, assigned Administrative Law Judge W. Di Nardi in Boston to hold hearings, expected to be in smouth this summer.

Reich, in his decision, revealed a March 1984 out-of-court settlement barred Wampler from discussing his case publicly, or even voluntarily presenting safety concerns to federal regulators. Reich labeled the provision "contrary to public provision."

SEABROOK, Page 33

SEABROOK

Continued from Page 29

policy and unenforceable."

The hearing could open the way for Wampler to be paid damages, but it also could reveal new evidence about whether nuclear safety questions had been covered up. Antinuclear activists have contended that nuclear plants withheld information from the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission and that the NRC itself misled congressional investigators about nuclear safety issues.

Pullman-Higgins Co., the Seabrook subcontractor that was Wampler's employer, filed a Feb. 28 motion asking Reich to reconsider, saying it never intended to prevent Wampler, a licensed quality control inspector, from raising safety concerns. The company's lawyer, Mark T. Broth, wouldn't return phone calls seeking further comment.

"It's been a long time," Wampler said in a telephone interview. "I feel like the weight of a 40-foot trailer has been lifted from my shoulders."

Wampler's firing touched off one of the most contentious regulatory disputes during the construction of the \$6 billion reactor. Wampler contended that 20 percent of the 2,669 safety-related welds at Seabrook were either defective or improperly documented — X-rays used for backup were flawed and the safety of

the welds could not be determined.

But in January 1984, when Wampler raised questions about the welds with management, he was fired. Technical inspections by the NRC and congressional investigations followed.

Records deemed faulty

In 1991 the NRC found that several welds did not have the proper X-ray documentation, and the agency fined Seabrook's previous operator, New Hampshire Yankee, \$100,000 for failing to keep properly documented X-rays.

Seabrook spokesman Rob Williams said that North Atlantic Energy Corp., the plant's current operator, "wants to emphasize that there was never an issue of plant safety, and the quality of the welds themselves has been confirmed." During the plant's 1991 refueling, the questioned welds were reexamined and new X-rays made, Williams said.

The investigation led to an inspection at the Watts Bar nuclear power plant in Spring City, Tenn., where substandard welds were found, and the Tennessee Valley Authority spent \$50 million on repairs.

Wampler became a hero to the activists who maintained nuclear power was inherently unsafe and that the Seabrook reactor was substandard. "He's our original Seabrook whistleblower," said Robert A.

**'Other people ...
will come forward
with safety
concerns, now that
we know they can
be protected.'**

STEPHEN COMLEY
Nuclear safety activist

Backus, a longtime opponent of the plant.

But Wampler could not openly provide information to opponents. On March 20, 1984, shortly after his firing, Wampler and Pullman-Higgins reached a settlement in which the company paid his lawyers' fees and agreed not to blacklist him within the industry. One paragraph said, "neither party will disclose the facts of this case except if ordered to do so by court, tribunal or agency of competent jurisdiction."

Wampler said afterward he had been coerced into accepting the settlement. He said it barred him from voluntarily raising nuclear safety concerns even with the NRC.

Wampler, who had worked as a quality-control inspector for such other high-profile projects as the

National Aeronautics and Space Administration's space shuttle, found that his business was drying up. "As soon as a client found out who I am, all of a sudden, no contract," he said yesterday. "I've lost two houses, and a wife, because of this."

In an effort to preserve his privacy until the hearing, Wampler yesterday declined to identify the midwestern city where he now lives.

But in 1990, backed by Stephen Comley, a Rowley, Mass., nuclear safety activist, Wampler and his lawyer filed a motion with the Labor Department, seeking to reopen the settlement. Reich considered the case early this year and concluded that the settlement violated the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, designed to protect whistleblowers.

"To the extent that this provision could be construed as restricting complainant from voluntarily communicating and providing information to any federal or state government agencies, it is void as contrary to public policy and unenforceable," Reich wrote.

Comley hailed the decision, saying: "We have other people who will come forward with safety concerns, now that we know they can be protected."

Asked whether he would do the same thing if he had the chance, Wampler said, "Yeah, I'm probably afraid enough to do it all over again."



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

August 30, 1993

OFFICE OF THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL

Mr. Stephen B. Comley
Executive Director
We the People, Inc. of
the United States
Box 277
Rowley, Massachusetts 01969

Dear Mr. Comley:

I have been requested by the White House to respond specifically to your concerns regarding the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Your concerns were contained in your letter to the White House dated July 14, 1993. This will confirm that Senior Staff Members of my office met with you recently to pursue issues raised by you concerning counterfeit parts in the nuclear industry. I hope to personally meet with you next month regarding your concerns about the treatment of whistleblowers within the nuclear industry. As your letter stated, my office maintains an ongoing relationship with you and other associates of your public interest group We The People, Inc. This ongoing relationship has been useful to my office and I hope that it meets your needs to have your concerns addressed, as well.

Your letter also referenced an allegation submitted by you to Agent Milam of the Department of Energy. I gather from the enclosed correspondence that the allegation was referred to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for handling. We discussed that referral by telephone recently.

In closing let me join Mr. Mack McLarty, Chief of Staff to the President in assuring you that your concerns will receive full consideration by my office.

Sincerely,

David C. Williams

David C. Williams
Inspector General



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

May 31, 1991

OFFICE OF THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL

Mr. Stephen B. Comley
Mansion Drive
Rowley, MA 01960

Dear Mr. Comley:

This correspondence is provided in response to your request of Special Agent Kent E. Walker concerning the status of an allegation you forwarded to the Inspector General concerning former President Ronald Reagan. You alleged that in October 1987 you provided President Reagan with information regarding the use of counterfeit and substandard parts throughout the nuclear industry and that the former President subsequently refused to acknowledge receipt of that information. Your concerns were provided to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Silver Spring, MD, on December 13, 1990.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leo J. Norton".

Leo J. Norton, Assistant Inspector
General for Investigations

NEVER
INVESTIGATED
BUT WILL BE!

Lpswich Chronicle

A North Shore Weeklies publication

Thursday, March 12, 1992

Comley attends rally as jail looms

By Christopher Rhoads

There's a metal sculpture in a courtyard on the Boston University campus that on most days probably goes largely unnoticed.

On Friday, however, it was surrounded by a small crowd of college students, holding large banners like sails against the icy wind.

The students, gathered to protest the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's treatment of Stephen Comley, may not have realized how appropriate their meeting place was.

At the base of the monument, an inscription reads:

"I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for law."

The words belong to Martin Luther King Jr., for whom the sculpture is dedicated. He wrote them from an Alabama jail in the 1950s.

Comley, who on this day was getting ready to address the small crowd about his likely imprisonment for protecting an individual who allegedly spoke to him about safety issues in nuclear power plants, passed by the inscription and nodded.

"Pretty good, huh," he said.

Comley, the director of Sea

"This is something students should get involved in. We're just here to back up Steve and what he's trying to do. Someone needs to get the message out."

— David Elliot

Gordon College student

View Nursing Home and the president of the nuclear whistleblowing group We The People, can appreciate what the civil rights leader had to say about standing up for one's beliefs.

For his refusal to comply with an NRC subpoena that he believes would break the trust of his informants within the nuclear industry, Comley has incurred fines of more than \$180,000 and now faces an indefinite jail term.

Comley has recently stepped up his efforts to spread his message because his days as a free man may be numbered.

The U.S. Justice Department last week filed a plea for a contempt of court hearing for Comley, which could mean the end of the legal rope for the anti-nuclear activist.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Roberta Brown has asked the U.S. District Court to require Comley to show cause why he has

refused to comply with the court's past rulings.

"If no cause is shown, respondent (should) be subjected to appropriate sanctions until his contempt of court is purged, and the costs of the United States for this action (should) be assessed against the respondent," the petition states.

The U.S. District Court judge who has presided over numerous court appearances of Comley during the last two years, has not yet scheduled a hearing, but Comley's lawyer, Ernest Hadley, believes it will probably be held within the month.

Comley's case has gained much attention in the last few months, perhaps culminating with a reference to him during one of the televised presidential debates held in New Hampshire last month.

Former California Gov. Jerry Brown castigated former Mas-

sachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas not supporting Comley in plight.

Comley has been circulating a petition to have President Bush launch an investigation into NRC. Both Brown and Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey have signed it, but Tsongas reportedly refused after a private meeting with Comley in Nashua the day before the primary.

While the crowd was smaller than expected on Friday (about 30 students), there were representatives from several different colleges and universities represented at the rally.

"This is something students should get involved in," David Elliot, a Gordon College student, said. "We're just here to back up Steve and what he's trying to do. Someone needs to get the message out."

About six students spoke to the huddled crowd, trying to keep them warm, before Comley made a brief speech.

"I will be going to jail, so that's sad," he said, tears in his eyes. "But it's not just my future that's at stake. It's your futures that are at stake. We have to let the community know how important this is. It's a small circle now, but it will broaden."

The NRC has said it is investigating the matter because it believes its employee, if he speaks with Comley, may release sensitive information to the public.

THE DAILY NEWS

Newburyport, Massachusetts

Saturday, March 14, 1992 / 20 Pages

35 cents \$2 home-delivered

Students rally to Comley's nuclear cause

By KARL MUENCH
Daily News staff

He has flown banners over Washington and two state capitols; ambushed presidents, governors and political candidates; visited dozens of newsrooms; and spent hundreds of thousands of dollars.

But the threat of jail is what has most gained attention for Rowley anti-nuclear activist Stephen B. Comley's six-year-old message that nuclear power plants are poorly built and poorly regulated.

With his defiance of a Nuclear Regulatory Commission subpoena, the 47-year-old nursing home administrator has himself become a cause, a cause that has rallied support on college campuses, within anti-nu-

Comley, page A8



Stephen B. Comley

COMLEY: Students rally behind his cause

Continued from page A1
clear groups and from presidential candidates.

"As the truth surfaces, there will be more and more outrage," said Comley, who organized the whistleblower-support group We The People. "And these people in government will find out that they work for us."

Comley has said he was content to run the Sea View Nursing Home in Rowley, just outside the 10-mile emergency planning zone for the Seabrook nuclear power plant, until the 1986 Chernobyl reactor accident in the Ukraine.

He started with a petition drive in Rowley calling for an investigation of nuclear safety and regulation. Comley eventually focused on what he claims are standard and unsafe parts in U.S. nuclear plants.

The NRC, saying it needs to know if sensitive information was improperly passed to Comley, wants tapes he supposedly kept of conversations with Roger Fortuna, a lead investigator for the agency.

Congressional probes of the investigation have backed Comley's claim it is an attempt to stifle internal criticism.

Comley has refused to comply with the subpoena, despite repeated court orders enforcing it. The

moved for a contempt finding; and Comley says he would rather go to jail than violate the confidence of whistleblowers.

Anti-nuclear groups have shared Comley's views, but not his tactics or manner.

"That's just his style," Sandra Gavutis, director of the Newburyport group Citizens Within the 10-Mile Radius, said of Comley's methods.

However, C-10 stood with a host of organizations that filed a friend-of-the-court brief supporting Comley's resistance to the NRC subpoena.

"We've always been concerned about the plight of the whistleblower," Gavutis said. "What's happening to Steve is indicative of what goes on with whistleblowers. If he went to jail, it would be just such an injustice."

The national spotlight focused on Comley last month, when fellow Democratic presidential candidates asked Paul Tsongas in a debate in New Hampshire why he would not support Comley.

The former Massachusetts senator, now one of three surviving Democratic candidates, said he did not recall ever being asked by Comley for support.

Despite those successes, Comley said, "What I'm most excited about is that I'm not in jail."

through this issue, is that our young people have elected to take up this issue and make their voices heard."

Representatives of student organizations from 16 colleges and universities held a rally last week at Boston University to call for support for Comley. He has spoken at several of the schools.

Bonnie Chen, a Boston University student active with the group Arms of Atlas, said Comley is a persuasive speaker. His petition calling for an investigation of the NRC has gathered 500 signatures at B.U. "without too much effort," she said.

"Just hearing some of the crazy things going on makes you feel so bad that he's at the end of a witch hunt," said Chen. "Freedom of expression is at issue. ... Even people who support nuclear power say they are for safety, too, and back him."

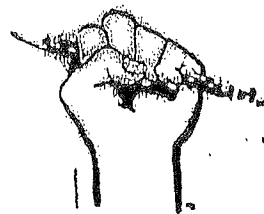
Brandeis University student Dan DeLisi, Massachusetts coordinator of the Student Environmental Action Coalition, said he finds Comley's case "kind of scary."

"I don't think the environmental movement can progress, if every time someone exposes wrongdoing by the government, the whistleblower goes to jail," DeLisi said. "That is just incredibly wrong."

the national student
newsletter of the
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COALITION

THRESHOLD

VOL. 3, NO. 4 JANUARY 1992



Action alerts

The NRC's war against Stephen Comley

Mr Stephen Comley is the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) worst enemy. He founded "We the People" in Rowley, MA to protect whistleblowers who came forward with allegations involving nuclear power plant safety. Because people trusted him, he received information that led to a report that 72 of the 113 nuclear plants in this country are using counterfeit and substandard parts.

Instead of cracking down on these plants, the NRC has lowered the standards so the parts are acceptable. Comley has presented evidence to important, powerful people that some NRC persons have been working to cover up this safety problem. These prominent people have not tried to solve the problems; therefore, Comley and his group are petitioning to our very own "environmental president" to support a congressionally ordered independent investigation of the entire NRC as well as on the Seabrook Plant in New Hampshire.

Our group at Boston University, Arms of Atlas, has started petitioning as well, not just because we want an investigation done on the NRC, but also because Stephen Comley's work may be stopped by a September ruling that he hand over alleged tapes of conversations that would aid the investigation of one of the NRC's former employees who has given Comley information. Comley refuses to admit who his sources are and if any tapes even exist.

Why put his life on the line and face a jail sentence and high fines? Because the careers and lives of people within the NRC who are trying to get the NRC to actually do its job will be ruined. Not only that, but we will not hear what the NRC fails to tell the public about the dangers of the nuclear industry. If Comley goes to jail, he needs us, the students—the young people who are going to live with nuclear disasters—to carry out this fight to protect the innocent people of this country. His freedom of speech and association have been violated, he has paid thousands of dollars of his own money for his group, he has brought crucial evidence to the public, he has tried to show that democracy still exists in this country—he may go to jail for all this.

Let's continue his fight! Join "We the People" in petitioning for an NRC investigation. Mr. Comley will come speak at your school, send you petitions, stickers, articles and documents and back you on this because we are backing him. Please contact me, Hollie, at (617) 182-1611 or Bonnie at (617) 352-6947 or Stephen Comley at (508) 948-7959. Please call me, regardless, so we can keep track of who is helping.

—Hollie Marron
Boston University Arms of Atlas

Portsmouth Herald

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1982

50

Anti-nuclear activist seeks student support

By April T. Jacobs
Herald Staff Writer

BOSTON — Anti-nuclear activist Stephen Comley received support from student activists from 16 universities and colleges Friday at a rally at Boston University.

Mr. Comley told the small crowd of students and onlookers that he wanted their support beside him, not behind him.

Mr. Comley may face jail in the next few weeks if he doesn't comply with a U.S. District Court judge's request that he produce evidence the Nuclear Regulatory Commission says it needs to complete an investigation.

Mr. Comley allegedly has tapes of conversations he had with an assistant inspector general at the NRC, who blew the whistle on safety problems at nuclear plants, including Seabrook Station.

The college activists came to Boston University to support Mr. Comley's call for an investigation into the NRC, and decried his possible jail sentence.

"I'm scared ... I never realized how important my rights were until this agency tried to take them away. I'm not for sale," said Mr. Comley.

University of New Hampshire student Shawn Landry said Mr. Comley "is being persecuted because he's a threat to the nuclear industry's profits."

Mr. Comley, founder of We The People, a nuclear whistleblower organization, has been circulating a petition among the presidential candidates to get them to sign in favor of an investigation into the NRC. Mr. Comley said he believes the NRC is too close to the industry to carry out its role of protecting ordinary citizens.

Dan DeLisi, coordinator for the Massachusetts Student Environmental Action Coalition, said he would like to see more leadership from the candidates on the issue of nuclear safety.

Former California Gov. Jerry Brown and Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey have signed Mr. Comley's petition during their presidential campaign runs.

TSONGAS REFUSED TO
SIGN PETITION.

DAVE BARRY

The Maid-in-N.H. Victory

MANCHESTER, N.H. I was having breakfast in the hotel here, along with maybe two dozen other media people, each of us reading the New York Times so we could ascertain the mood of the New Hampshire voters, who live outside the hotel somewhere, where the New York Times keeps an eye on them for us. A middle-aged man with piercing eyes walked into the restaurant and, ignoring many heavyweight national media people, came over to my table. He spoke in a low, dramatic voice.

"Who are you with?" he asked.

"The Miami Herald," I said, "but I'm..."

"I have information that will bring down the Bush presidency," he said. "This is very big. Wait here and I'll get the documents."

"... but I'm a HUMOR columnist," I said, too late. He was already striding off. He came back a minute later with three thick envelopes, labeled "REAGAN CHRONOLOGY," "SUNUNU CHRONOLOGY" and "FORTUNA AFFAIR."

"This is dynamite," he said. "This is the Bush presidency in your hands."

"Could I have the check, please?" I said to the waitress.

So anyway, now I'm sitting here in my hotel room with the Bush presidency in my hands. The Fortuna Affair! It's a big responsibility, but as a trained journalist, I know what I must do with this information, and I believe it's the same thing that Bob Woodward would do: Leave it for the maid. Let her decide the fate of the Bush presidency. I'm going home. New Hampshire is becoming so weird that at any moment I expect the entire state to start glowing with a greenish light and get beamed up to the Mother Ship.

This is not New Hampshire's fault. It's just that this is a very small state, and it can't absorb the massive influx of candidates and advisers and media and pollsters and protesters and hyperactivists and publicity-seekers and random sidewalk loons. Everywhere you go

other and hold up pictures of candidates and fetuses and nuclear power plants, and just generally rave into the night.

I always wonder what these people expect to accomplish by these tactics. Has any voter ever, in the history of the world, made a decision about a candidate or an issue because of being shouted at? Do, for example, young Buchanan supporters think that if they yell "PAT IN '92!" enough times, the young Bush supporters standing next to them yelling "BUSH! BUSH! BUSH!" will suddenly stop and say, "Hey! You're RIGHT!"?

I can't tell you much about the debate, because I watched it, along with hundreds of other media people, on the monitors in the Media Center, which was actually a gymnasium, so the acoustics were terrible. Count on the media to watch the debate from the worst debating-watching venue in New England. All the candidates sounded like they were saying "Buh buh buh."

The main news I got out of it was that Sen. Tom Harkin thinks we should change all the light bulbs in America, and I support him 100 percent on this. My house has some light bulbs that I haven't changed in years because the fixtures are guarded by hostile spiders, and I would welcome federal help in this area.

During the debate I sat next to a Washington Post reporter. About halfway through, when the candidates were going buh buh buh about economic policy, he turned to me and said: "I'm a reasonably well-informed person. I read newspapers. I follow the candidates. I talk to people about the issues. I have to say I have NO IDEA who's right."

So there you have the word from the Media Center. All we know for sure is that the voters, according to the New York Times, have Lingering Doubts. Also they want Candor. They are expected to give a Big Boost to Paul E. Tsongas, who, by the way, sounds like he's saying "buh buh buh" even when

WASH. POST 2/18/92

CUem

33

WASH.

columns and to write, he was already ending off. He came back a minute later with three thick envelopes labeled "REAGAN CHRONOLOGY," "SUNUNU CHRONOLOGY" and "FORTUNA AFFAIR."

"This is dynamite," he said. "This is the Bush presidency in your hands."

"Could I have the check, please?" I said to the waitress.

So anyway, now I'm sitting here in my hotel room with the Bush presidency in my hands. The Fortuna Affair! It's a big responsibility, but as a trained journalist, I know what I must do with this information, and I believe it's the same thing that Bob Woodward would do: Leave it for the maid. Let her decide the fate of the Bush presidency. I'm going home. New Hampshire is becoming so weird that at any moment I expect the entire state to start glowing with a greenish light and get beamed up to the Mother Ship.

This is not New Hampshire's fault. It's just that this is a very small state, and it can't absorb the massive influx of candidates and advisers and media and pollsters and protesters and hyperactivists and publicity-seekers and random sidewalk loons. Everywhere you go people are shouting and thrusting signs at you and handing you literature proving that the League of Women Voters is a cult of transsexual snake-worshippers. Every time you turn on the television you see six political ads in a row, every one of which features a candidate looking sincerely into the camera and saying: "You can trust me. I'm wearing a red tie."

The weirdness reached critical mass Sunday night outside the big televised Democratic debate, where hundreds, maybe thousands of people had gathered to thrust signs and shout slogans at each

other. The debate from the worst debating-watching venue in New England. All the candidates sounded like they were saying "Buh buh buh."

The main news I got out of it was that Sen. Tom Harkin thinks we should change all the light bulbs in America, and I support him 100 percent on this. My house has some light bulbs that I haven't changed in years because the fixtures are guarded by hostile spiders, and I would welcome federal help in this area.

During the debate I sat next to a Washington Post reporter. About halfway through, when the candidates were going buh buh buh about economic policy, he turned to me and said: "I'm a reasonably well-informed person. I read newspapers. I follow the candidates. I talk to people about the issues. I have to say I have NO IDEA who's right."

So there you have the word from the Media Center. All we know for sure is that the voters, according to the New York Times, have Lingering Doubts. Also they want Candor. They are expected to give a Big Boost to Paul E. Tsongas, who, by the way, sounds like he's saying "buh buh buh" even when the acoustics are perfect. It's something about his lips. He doesn't seem to have total control of them. They're like independent organisms that live on his face in a symbiotic relationship with him, helping him out with eating and breathing, but occasionally demonstrating a mind of their own and sort of wandering off to the side of his face when he attempts to speak. Not that I am being critical. He's a smart man, and he could well be the next president of the United States, depending on how the maid decides to handle the Fortuna Affair.

Knight-Ridder

New Hampshire

SEACOAST SUNDAY

News, Arts and Entertainment for the Seacoast

Sunday, August 25, 1991

28 Pages

INSIDE

PROFILE

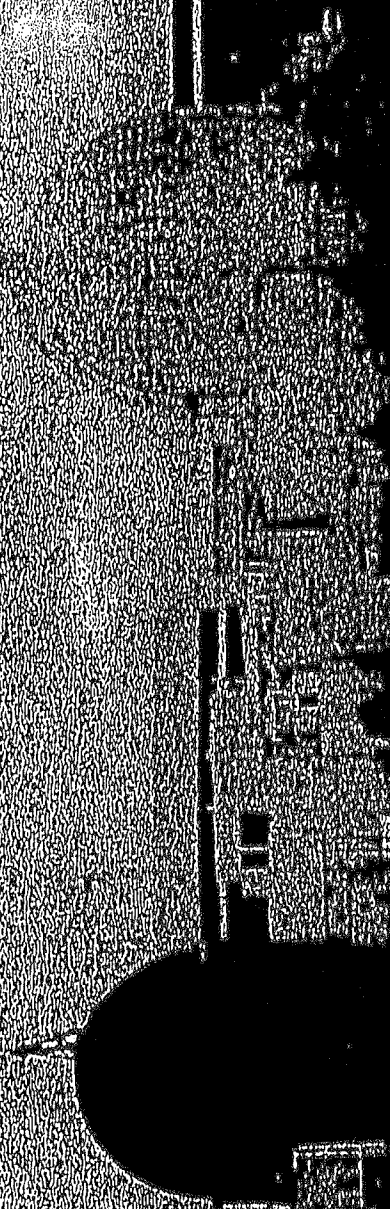


Doggedly determined

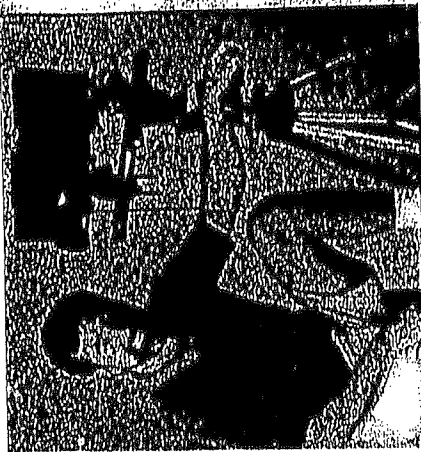
Among dog sled racers it's the top of the world who become celebrities, but Tom Kilham is content to be a world class champion of a different sort.

Page 10

Wiping out a whistle-blower



Steve Comley's pipeline for Seabrook whistle-blowers has caused plenty of trouble for the NRC, which wants him to reveal his sources or go to jail.



Keeping life in perspective

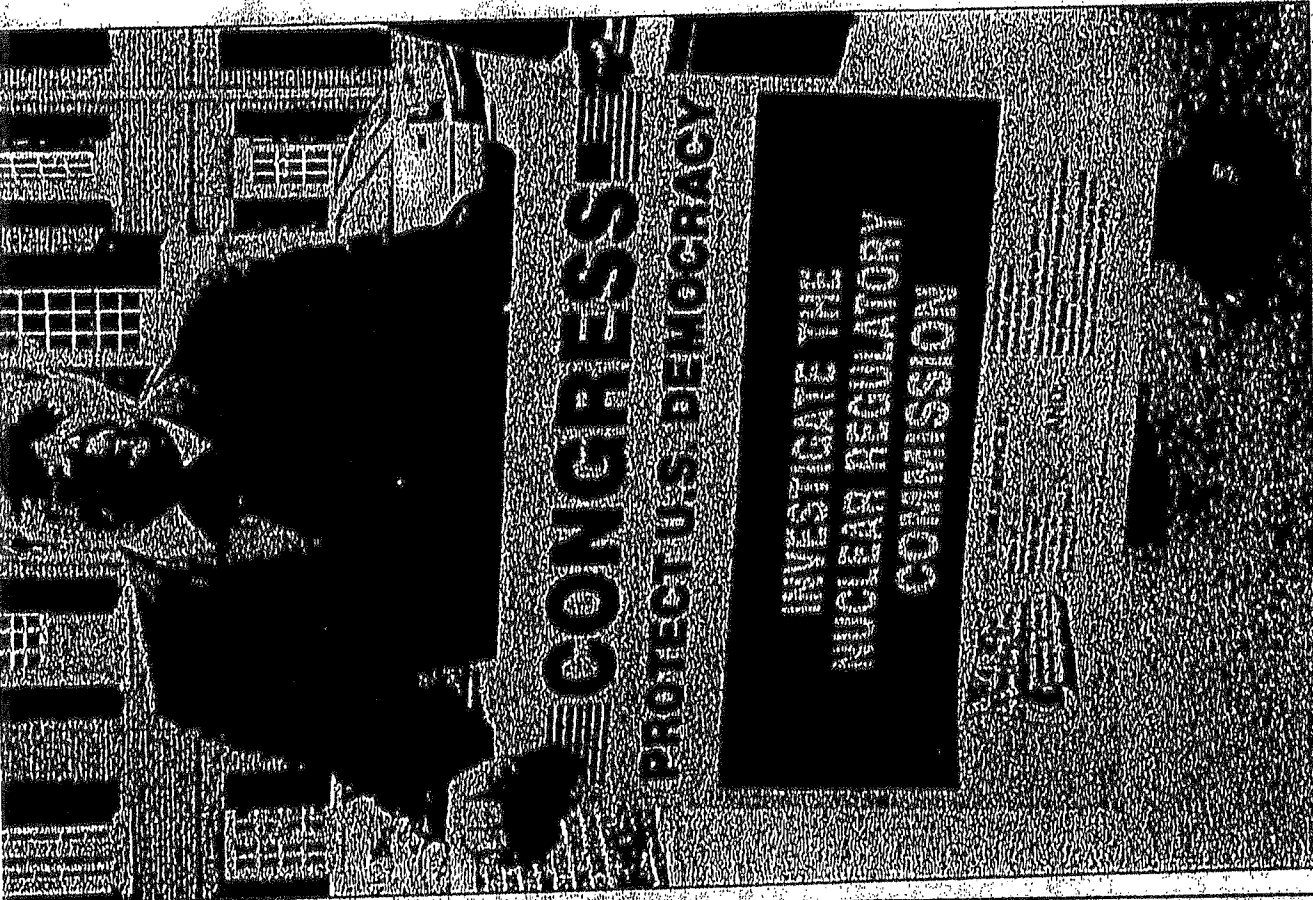
Brightmouth photographer Rob
arosis stays in demand as he
ashes beyond convention to a
aw photographic look
miniscent of the past.

Page 13

Opinion.....	Page 6
Cinema.....	Page 16
Dining.....	Page 18
Club listings.....	Page 20
Calendar.....	Page 22
Crossword.....	Page 24
Classified.....	Page 25

Cover design by Linda Gavin-Howard

Telephone: 926-5777
Classified: 1-800-323-9482
Circulation: 800-244-9760 or 433-5503



Steve Comley: Chief conduit for Seabrook whistle-blowers. Will he be silenced?

By BOB YOUNG

Steve Comley has something the government wants badly — badly enough to fine him \$1,000 a day. Comley is wily enough to have cashed in all his IRAs and insurance policies and transferred all his property, including his Rowley, Mass., nursing home, to family members.

But when he brought the powerful Boston law firm of Hale and Dorr into court to protect the nursing home and the government realized he didn't have any assets to seize, it decided to play hardball.

In one meeting, the government literally threatened to take the rings off his fingers — which in Comley's case amounted to a single wedding band — to collect its fines.

That was the lowest point in Comley's five-year struggle against the Seabrook nuclear plant, and he broke down and cried. But Comley quickly regained his composure and resumed his all-consuming crusade.

Comley and his family have spent \$400,000 on the fight. He also faces \$155,000 in fines and an indefinite jail term for

Continued on page 4

Will ^{THE NRC} silence this man?

Continued from page one

refusing to comply with an NRC subpoena to hand over tapes of conversations he had with a government official naming nuclear industry whistle-blowers.

He knows people have called him a nut and a flake for carrying this argument to its extreme, but these days he feels vindicated.

A recent NRC investigation into weld safety documentation at Seabrook and a Congressional investigation into whether the plant was improperly licensed have turned up a startling finding:

Several X-rays of welds are missing. According to the NRC's rules, those missing records should have delayed the plant's license. Seabrook spokesman Ron Sher is quick to point out that the NRC is not questioning the actual safety of the welds.

Instead, Sher says, the investigators are looking into the fact that "some records — a very small number — are incomplete."

But the news of missing records raises questions about the plant's credibility, questions critics like Comley have been asking for years. Indeed, the current NRC and Congressional investigations were spurred, in part, by evidence Comley provided to Congress that a former Seabrook inspector alleged he was fired because he found too many faulty weld records to suit the plant's owners.

And Comley says he's handed over more allegations by whistle-blowers that good X-rays were substituted for bad ones, and faulty X-rays were tampered with to make them appear acceptable.

whether such information will continue to flow through Comley's pipeline for whistle-blowers. If Comley is forced to turn over the tapes or go to jail, he says it will silence whistle-blowers and quash dissent in the nuclear power industry.

And that, he says, is just as important — if not more important — than the questions about weld X-rays at Seabrook.

Questions about the integrity of welds at Seabrook and the veracity of weld safety records have been public since at least 1985, when James Padovano, a quality control inspector at Seabrook, was convicted for falsifying weld inspection reports.

Nevertheless, it wasn't until early 1990 that Congress began to scrutinize the issue, acting on a tip from Comley.

Comley gave Rep. Peter Kostmayer of Pennsylvania testimony from a labor hearing of Joe Wampler, a former weld inspector at Seabrook, who said he was fired for exposing safety problems.

In his tenure at Seabrook, Wampler examined hundreds of backlogged weld X-rays. Wampler said he rejected about 20 percent of the X-rays because they could not be read or they showed substandard welds.

Wampler's testimony led Kostmayer and other congressmen to push the NRC inspector general to investigate improprieties concerning the weld tests.

The welds in question connect water and steam pipes in the plant's cooling system. There are 2,600

quires X-rays and other records for, to ensure their ability to withstand high pressures and temperatures.

Each weld is documented with one or more X-rays and inspection reports by the piping contractors, the plant's insurance company and a "so-called third party review" by Yankee Atomic Electric Company, a Massachusetts firm hired by the plant, plant spokesman Sher says.

Congress, however, has been dissatisfied with the NRC's oversight of Seabrook's weld X-rays. Thus, Kostmayer and five Massachusetts Congressmen wrote the NRC last year, saying, "We will continue to pursue the matter until we are satisfied that the adequacy of Seabrook's quality assurance program, and NRC's oversight thereof, have been demonstrated."

Investigations of weld safety documentation at Seabrook began in the spring of 1990, just after the plant was licensed. Last January, inspectors discovered that some records were missing. Eventually it was determined that four X-ray packages were missing.

And that discovery raises the question: Was the plant unaware that its weld records were faulty, or did it lie to the NRC to gain a license. "We've always provided the NRC with the most up-to-date information. We can't determine why some (records) are missing. We have to assume it was misplaced or misfiled in record-keeping," Sher says.

Sher also stresses that "99.8 percent" of the plant's X-ray records were complete. But a recent NRC investigation of 29 sample weld packages found six X-rays that were of inadequate quality.



Seabrook opponent Steve Comley says he hasn't chosen between the bleak options the government has presented — hurting himself or others who've put their trust in him.

frightens Comley.

"If there are no records, how do you know the plant is safe? The law says the plant and the NRC have to have a paper trail to confirm it's safe. If they can't confirm it's safe, how is the public to trust the plant? Just because the NRC says so, doesn't make it a fact," Comley says.

Sher counters that the plant has sufficient documentation to show that the welds in question were X-rayed and approved before the packages were discovered to be missing. He also says the piping systems with deficient X-rays and missing X-rays have withstood tests "well above design pressures."

But plant critics remain skeptical

trust them. Unfortunately we don't trust them," says Sandy Gavutis, executive director of Citizens Within the Ten Mile Radius.

"It raises concerns again about why and how Seabrook got licensed if there wasn't proof of the integrity of the weld. It's a blatant violation of regulations," Gavutis says.

The NRC inspector general's office confirms that it's still investigating weld safety documentation at Seabrook. But officials there won't say what the investigation entails and when it will be complete.

"We don't discuss ongoing investigations. There will be some public information when an investigative report is completed. But a report has

Whistle-blower

Continued from previous page

not been issued yet," says Jack Taylor, assistant inspector general for operations.

The most severe outcome of the investigation, says Michael Mariotte at the Nuclear Energy Resource Service in Washington, is that Seabrook would be forced to re-inspect its welds.

That's what happened at the Comanche Peak nuclear plant in Texas, where whistle-blowers were heard before the plant went on-line.

"The plant had to do 100 percent re-inspection and it cost them five years. But it's never happened to a plant that's already been licensed. It will be interesting to see what happens," Mariotte says.

Comley wants Congressional hearings on weld documentation at Seabrook, and he hopes it leads to re-inspecting the plant.

The key, he says, is how far Congress is willing to go.

Comley also says more allegations about inadequate weld documentation at Seabrook will be "coming out soon."

He's passed several allegations onto the inspector general's office, including reports from whistle-blowers that good X-rays were substituted for bad X-rays and unacceptable X-rays were doctored.

Comley says he can't reveal the exact contents of a whistle-blower's letter that he forwarded to the inspector general, but the letter claims quality control inspectors at Seabrook substituted the good X-rays for bad ones to avoid the expense of repairing the bad welds.

Comley also learned from an informant that the plant allegedly installed — and then pulled out — piping

when it learned that weld X-rays for the piping were doctored with a lead pencil to make them appear acceptable.

Seabrook spokesman Rob Williams says the plant and the NRC already investigated allegations of x-ray substitution and found them to be "groundless."

Williams also says the plant "never installed and then pulled out" any piping because of doctored x-rays.

Comley fears that such problems have been exacerbated by counterfeit and substandard equipment sold by vendors to Seabrook and other plants.

He cites a 1990 report by the federal General Accounting Office, which says that 72 of the 113 nuclear plants in the country — including Seabrook — have received, or are suspected of having received counterfeit and/or substandard parts.

The report also says the NRC, which is supposed to police the industry, has been "deferring its regulatory responsibility" in preventing nuclear plants from using such parts.

And that's what really bothers Comley.

"The thing that troubles me most is that the NRC was born as a watchdog. But its masters have turned it into a guard dog for nuclear industry profits," he says.

For Comley, the process of becoming a whistle-blower began with Padovano, the inspector convicted in 1985 of falsifying reports.

"Padovano initially got me involved. I smelled a rat because why would an inspector falsify records. It just didn't make any sense. From

what I understood, Padovano was encouraged to do it," he says.

As Comley's anti-Seabrook efforts got more and more media attention, he started to get calls from informants and develop contacts with officials like Roger Fortuna, the NRC's lead investigator, he says.

That's when Comley's problems with the federal government began.

By 1985, Roger Fortuna, an aggressive former federal prosecutor, had signed on with the NRC, and he planned to begin prosecuting utilities that violated safety regulations.

That didn't sit well with former NRC executive director Victor Stelton, who favored settling safety violations quietly. When Comley got involved with Fortuna, he stepped into the middle of this feud.

One of the cases Comley was helping Fortuna with involved New York's Nine Mile Point nuclear reactor.

Doug Ellison, a former technician at the plant, claimed the NRC was ignoring technical problems at Nine Mile Point, and he wanted Comley to sponsor his allegations. Comley took Ellison to Washington, D.C. with the intention of bringing him to the Justice Department.

But while Comley and Ellison shared a hotel room in Washington, Comley says he "decided to change strategy and decided to hold off" bringing Ellison to the Justice Department. Ellison was upset, Comley says, and the story then took a bizarre turn.

While Comley telephoned the NRC's Fortuna to tell him of the change in strategy, Ellison took an extension phone into the bathroom and surreptitiously recorded the conversation between Comley and Fortuna.

Ellison then complained to the NRC that Fortuna did not adequately handle the safety complaints at Nine Mile Point, and Fortuna's enemies within the NRC paid Ellison \$6,000 for a copy of the tape of the conversation between Fortuna and Comley. From there, the case began to resemble a soap opera. "Dallas' with radiation," is how Rep. Kostmayer, whose Congressional oversight committee got involved, described it.

The NRC investigated Fortuna on the grounds that he improperly gave sensitive information to Comley, and began hounding him for the tapes of conversations with Fortuna, the existence of which Comley will neither confirm nor deny.

(At one point a federal judge was fining Comley \$1,000 a day for not turning over the tapes, but another judge has since stopped the fines.)

Congressman Kostmayer and others have said the reason for the investigation was the internal feud between Fortuna and the NRC's top staff.

Ben Hayes, director of the NRC's Office of Investigations, supported Fortuna during a Congressional hearing and said he had "never seen an investigation as perverted."

And, a Congressional committee concluded that the investigation of Fortuna was unwarranted and "a waste of government funds." Nevertheless, the NRC persists in seeking the tapes.

Comley says he can't surrender the tapes because to do so would intimidate whistle-blowers and quash dissent.

A lot of people share his opinion. Former Massachusetts State Sen. Nick Costello of Amesbury is rounding up supporters to appear at Comley's court hearing, scheduled for

September 19.

And groups like C-10 and the Seacoast Anti-Pollution League will be filing briefs in support of Comley.

"We want to protect whistle-blowers, and I think they're trying to discourage them. We don't want to see the doors closed," says Sandy Gavutis.

"It's frightening that they can take the process of intimidation so far as to put someone in jail for asking questions," she says. And Comley may very well end up in jail for an indefinite term.

"There's a 50-50 chance that Steve will be incarcerated," says Comley's attorney Ernest Hadley.

"The government could say the fines are not working and the only alternative is incarceration ... Civil contempt charges are not designed to punish, but to induce compliance (by jailing people until they comply with court orders)," Hadley says.

Comley's best defense might be the government's realization that jailing Comley could backfire "by focusing tremendous attention on Steve and making him a martyr," he says.

Comley says he hasn't chosen between the bleak options the government has presented — hurting himself or others who've put their trust in him.

"Jail? I don't know yet... I'm not going to pretend to know. I'm doing a lot of praying. I do know that," he says.

But no matter what happens, Comley doesn't blame the government.

"I blame myself. I've been dangerously complacent in the past. The government is corrupt. But I don't blame the government because the government is us."

Radical from a 'Republican Inner Circle'

With his Lincoln Town Car and lifetime membership in the Ronald Reagan Republican Center, Steve Comley doesn't fit anyone's stereotype of a no-nuker.

But for years Comley has been peppering congressmen and Nuclear Regulatory officials with information suggesting that Seabrook is unsafe.

He's also had anti-Seabrook banners flown from airplanes, disrupted former Governor John Sullivan's inauguration, and hand-delivered material to Reagan in an attempt to call attention to his cause.

And his go-round with Reagan is one of the more eccentric episodes in Comley's single-minded campaign.

Comley's non-profit organization, We The People of the United States, has prepared a four-page chronology of Comley's efforts to communicate with the former president.

After a series of letters to the President and a conversation with Nancy Reagan in Dover proved fruitless, Comley decided to put his money where his mouth is.

He contributed \$1,000 to the Republican Inner Circle Club, which enabled him to attend a Washington, D.C. luncheon, which Reagan also attended.

Comley handed Reagan a "We the People" banner, plus a letter and a packet of information about standard counterfeit materials built into many U.S. nuclear plants. The letter said high ranking NRC officials were willing to meet in confidence with the President to explain the counterfeit materials problem.

Although the event was closed to the public and the press, Comley had sent out a press release saying he intended to give the President this information. But when a reporter called to confirm the story, both the Inner Circle and the White House denied witnessing the exchange.

Comley, however, had photographs taken during the luncheon proving the exchange took place.

Nevertheless, the White House continued to deny that President received Comley's materials.

Comley continued writing Reagan, noting that he was a member, since 1982, of the Presidential Task Force, which



Steve Comley, second man from the left of President Reagan, was a financial and political supporter of the former president, and has tried to enlist Reagan's aid in the Seabrook fight.

supposedly gave him the "right to stand shoulder to shoulder" with President Reagan.

Comley says he still wants to hold Reagan "accountable" for the fact that he received information about the "alarming situation" concerning counterfeit materials in nuclear plants and never acknowledged it.

And he still seems genuinely disappointed in Reagan. Comley's anti-nuclear activism started in 1986, right after the Chernobyl accident, when he wrote to the NRC and asked them what he should do for his nursing home residents if there were a Chernobyl-type eruption of Seabrook. (Being 12 miles from the plant, the nursing home in Rowley was not included in evacuation plans, mandatory only for towns within ten miles of the plant.)

Comley received a reply from Victor Stello, Executive Director of the NRC. Stello stated that the plan for those who could not be moved during a radiological accident at Seabrook was to leave them behind and give them potassium iodide to drink.

Comley found the advice inhumane. Although potassium iodide might block radioactive iodine, it did not block other radioactive poisons produced in a nuclear plant accident — and it obviously wasn't effective enough to be the solution for anyone who could be evacuated.

So began Comley's long, costly and often frustrating battle against the nuclear power establishment.

He's had a few victories though.

In September 1990, a federal judge ruled that Stello and other NRC officials violated Comley's rights to freedom of speech by throwing him out of public NRC meetings when he displayed 'We The People' posters.

Judge John Pratt said the NRC officials "prevented Comley from engaging in protect speech because they did not like his message."

Comley also had a role in stopping Stello's nomination to a top atomic weapons post.

Congressional confirmation hearings on Stello's nomination to become assistant secretary of energy in charge of defense programs ended focusing controversy on the NRC's investigation of Roger Fortuna, an NRC official whom Comley had befriended.

Specifically, the hearings focused controversy on Stello authorizing the purchase, for \$6,000, of a tape made by informant Doug Ellison (see related story) of a conversation between Comley and Fortuna.

In reviewing transcripts of Ellison's tape, Congressmen Kostmayer was interested in references to "Waplov."

When Comley heard of Kostmayer's interest in "Waplov" he realized Kostmayer was referring to Joe Wampler, a former Seabrook inspector.

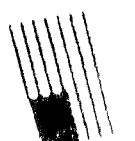
Comley gave Kostmayer a copy of a transcript of Wampler's termination hearing, in which Wampler said he was fired for finding too many faulty weld X-rays at Seabrook.

That testimony helped launch the current Congressional investigation of weld safety documentation at Seabrook.

— By BOB VOI

DANGER

Seabrook Nuclear Zone
NO EVACUATION POSSIBLE



CONGRESS



PROTECT U.S. DEMOCRACY

INVESTIGATE THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

AND:



~~Rowley~~ nuclear activist faces indefinite jail term

SAFETY

By Ken Braiterman
Eagle-Tribune Writer

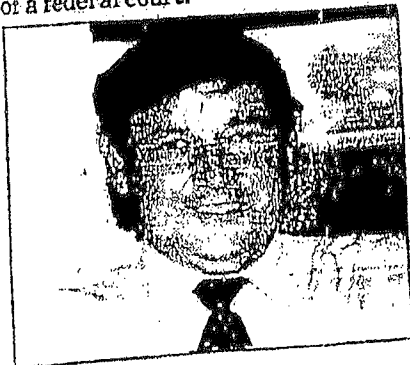
ROWLEY — Stephen Comley's lawyer advised him to bring a toothbrush when he goes to federal court in Boston Monday.

The Rowley nursing home administrator and anti-nuclear activist expects to be jailed indefinitely for contempt of court. He has been in contempt for 20 months now and has already accrued more than \$400,000 in fines, he said.

He claims to have evidence that nuclear plants across the United States, including Seabrook, contain counterfeit, substandard parts.

He said he gave that proof to investigators at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and then President Ronald Reagan personally Oct. 26, 1987. Reagan aides have consistently denied it. Mr. Comley's points to a giant color photo in his office showing him handing an envelope to the president.

But he will not tell the government who gave him the information. That landed him in contempt of a federal court.



\$400,000 in fines: Activist Stephen Comley

Federal regulators argue that verifying the information could be improve the safety of the public and the safety of the public is more important than Mr. Comley's right to withhold the information.

Mr. Comley says he is an advocate for whistleblowers in the nuclear industry and the federal bureaucracy. He said sources will dry up if he betrays them.

"The N.R.C. protects the nuclear industry, not the American people," Mr. Comley said. "If I give them my sources, they'll fire the people, destroy their careers, and sit on the information."

Mr. Comley admits he rubs some people the wrong way, like John Sununu, White House chief of staff and former New Hampshire governor. Mr. Comley disrupted Mr. Sununu's inauguration in 1987, urging him to represent the people, not the nuclear industry.

Victor Stello, former chief of staff at the N.R.C., is another powerful person Mr. Comley has bothered. Mr. Comley claims part credit for derailing Mr. Stello's appointment as assistant secretary of energy last year.

Mr. Comley won another victory over Mr. Stello last month after bringing a picket sign into a public N.R.C. meeting in 1988. Security guards threw him out.

On Sept. 19, U.S. District Judge John H. Pratt in Washington, D.C., ruled that Mr. Stello violated Mr.

Comley's constitutional rights.

"At the direction of Victor Stello (on Sept. 8, 1988 at a public meeting of the N.R.C.), two security guards kept Comley under surveillance," the judge said. "Once the meeting began, Comley displayed a poster bearing the words 'Stop Chernobyl Here.'"

Mr. Pratt ruled that there was no evidence the sign "visually disrupted" the meeting.

Instead, the judge said N.R.C. officials were trying to suppress the content of Mr. Comley's message and treated him differently than other people who attended.

He has also hired airplanes to carry picket signs over the New Hampshire Statehouse, the White House and the Republican national convention.

Mr. Comley's anti-nuclear crusade began with a letter to Mr. Stello asking how he would evacuate his nursing home patients, who could not be moved, in a Seabrook emergency.

Mr. Stello advised him to have the patients stay put and drink potassium iodide.

"I'm a nursing home administrator," Mr. Comley said. "I'm responsible for their safety. The N.R.C. is also responsible for their safety. I'm doing my job, but they're not doing theirs."

"I'm scared," he said. "I don't want to go to jail. But I can't let go of this."

MAY 10
1990

PORTSMOUTH, N.H., THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 10, 1990

72 PAGES - 7 SECTIONS

30¢ Single Copy - 1¢ Weekly Home Delivery

Nuclear woes don't surprise activist

By CHRISTOPHER COMFORT
Herald Staff Writer

PORTSMOUTH — Anti-nuclear activist Stephen Comley says he's not surprised the Nuclear Regulatory Commission decided to withdraw a \$50,000 fine against a Florida nuclear power plant for using substandard materials after the commission labeled the situation "an industry-wide problem."

Last week, the NRC sent a letter to officials at Florida Power Company's Crystal River nuclear plant saying a \$50,000 civil penalty against the company for failure to assure components installed in safety-related systems of the plant's reactor would be withdrawn.

On May 2, the NRC announced the fine against the Florida plant was being withdrawn "because the NRC staff has determined, and the commission has agreed, that escalated enforcement action on individual cases is not the appropriate response for what appears to be an industry-wide

problem."

The so-called "industry-wide problem," according to Mr. Comley, is the result of private vendors selling components for nuclear reactors which do not meet minimum standards set by the NRC.

Mr. Comley asserts that the use of inadequate components in safety-related systems can be found in at least 50 nuclear plant reactors across the country, including the Seabrook Station.

He said he's been working to bring this fact to the attention of Washington officials for over two years.

The anti-nuclear activist and owner of the Rowley, Mass., organization We The People, personally gave information regarding faulty materials to former President Reagan over two years ago - but White House officials denied the exchange ever took place.

Photographs of the brief encounter with Mr. Reagan make it difficult to refute Mr. Comley's claim.

The exchange with former

President Reagan occurred during a Republican fundraiser in October 1987. In August of 1988, the NRC wrote Mr. Comley saying they were first alerted to the faulty materials situation in January of that year.

Mr. Comley says the NRC knew about the situation before January 1988.

"I've continued to give people in Washington this information including the Inspector General," the Republican activist said referring to documents on "counterfeit" materials at Seabrook and dozens of other plants.

"I gave Reagan the information in October of 1987 but, you know, people said he probably didn't read it," he said.

Mr. Comley said he also gave NRC Assistant Chairman John Hoyle similar information during the commission's meeting on March 1, 1990 to approve a full-power license to the Seabrook plant.

Mr. Hoyle, in a letter to Mr. Comley dated April 4, 1990, said he forwarded the information to the NRC's Assistant Inspector

General Leo J. Norton along with a photograph of the Reagan change Mr. Comley gave him.

"We currently have an investigation on several topics Mr. Comley and others have raised and at Seabrook it would be reports of different weld problems at the plant," Norton said.

He would not, however, comment directly on the status of the investigation but said "If we can see a need for looking beyond Seabrook, we will."

Mr. Norton said if there are technical concerns at a nuclear plant regarding health or safety it would be the NRC's responsibility to determine what course to take.

Mr. Comley said Mr. Norton had once told him the matter of inadequate components in clear plants may be an investigation for U.S. Attorney General Richard L. Thornburg.

"Of course Mr. Thornburg was the governor of Pennsylvania during the Three-M Island coverup," Mr. Comley said.



We the People photo

IN PERSON - Anti-nuclear activist Stephen Comley, lower left, passes information on inadequate nuclear reactor safety components to former President Ronald Reagan during a Republican fundraiser on Oct. 28, 1987.

Seabrook ordered own shutdown

PORTSMOUTH — In a Page 1 story Monday, May 7, concerning the request to Gov. Judd Gregg from six Democratic state senators seeking a probe of mechanical and operational problems at Seabrook Station, it is stated the latest shutdown was ordered by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission after turbine vibrations exceeded allowed limits as the reactor reached 8 percent capacity.

Ron Sher, a New Hampshire Yankee spokesman, said Tuesday that was incorrect.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission did not order the Seabrook Station shutdown Saturday, April 28, he said. Seabrook Station engineers and senior management made the decision to delay testing for four to six weeks in order to make modifications to the plant's turbine.

He further said turbine vibrations did not exceed allowable limits but that Seabrook Station engineers determined that electrical feedback forces from the New England electric power grid could cause a specific vibration of the turbine to operate beyond the limits of the plant's design.

electrical grid.

The senators, including Elaine Krasker of Portsmouth, said in the letter questions of mechanical integrity and operational management need to be answered and an independent investigation by an organization such as the congressional General Accounting Office or state attorney general's office would tell what remedial steps need to be taken.

The senators said they are concerned with the future health and prosperity of the people and are not acting as a part of an organization in the debate of nuclear power.

New Hampshire Yankee said a news release the modification to the turbine will involve stalling four new solid-metal rods to replace four existing tubular-metal rods between sections of the turbine blades in one section of the turbine, and welding the solid-metal rods to the turbine blades.

Because of the length of time required to make the modification to the turbine, senior management decided to shut down the plant's nuclear reactor last Saturday.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1990

Court says NRC critic wronged

By James L. Franklin
GLOBE STAFF

A federal judge has ruled that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission violated the First Amendment rights of Steve Comley, a Rowley businessman and longtime NRC critic, on several occasions when it barred or ejected him from NRC meetings.

The commission "prevented Comley from engaging in protected speech because they did not like his message," Judge John H. Pratt of the US District Court for the District of Columbia wrote in a decision filed Sept. 19.

The court held that Comley's display of posters and bumper stickers bearing the message, "Stop Chernobyl Here," at NRC hearings on the Seabrook and Pilgrim nuclear power plants "is protected speech under the First Amendment."

**'It appears that
NRC officials
treated Comley
differently from
other meeting
attendees, and that
this difference in
treatment was
based on Comley's
views ...'**

JUDGE JOHN H. PRATT
US District Court

The NRC's rules against display of "visually disruptive" posters or signs at its public meetings are a reasonable restriction, but it failed to show that the actions against Comley were "viewpoint neutral," Pratt wrote.

The court said NRC officials singled Comley out, assigned security guards to monitor him at commission meetings, and at one point barred him from a meeting because he was carrying a small bag, although other members of the public were allowed into the room carrying briefcases, purses and similar items.

"It appears that NRC officials treated Comley differently from other meeting attendees, and that this difference in treatment was based on Comley's views, which no doubt were irritating and annoying," the court said.

Ernest Hadley, Comley's attorney, observed: "The First Amendment is not based on what government officials find distressing. Mr. Comley's conduct was not disruptive, and no one complained."

Hadley said the decision bolsters arguments that the NRC treats its critics more harshly than industry representatives.

Robert A. Backus, a Manchester, N.H., attorney who has represented Seabrook opponents for more than a dozen years, said the decision showed the NRC has been less than evenhanded.

"I don't think anybody other than NRC staff or license applicants ever thought they got a fair hearing," he said, complaining of what he described as the agency's "barely disguised contempt for intervenors."

Joseph J. Fouchard, the NRC's director of public affairs, said the agency is reviewing the decision. "We don't permit signs or banners in NRC meetings, but we do not single out individuals," he said.

Panel Sees Animosity Behind Inquiry on Nuclear Body

By MATTHEW L. WALD

A Senate committee said yesterday an internal investigation at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of charges of misconduct by a high-ranking official appeared motivated as much by "personal and professional animosity" as by any legitimate need. The investigation involved a payment of \$6,000 in cash to an informer, reputedly recorded tapes of telephone conversations and commission officials lying to each other, said a report issued by the Senate Government Operations Committee.

The investigation has aroused interest because it was approved by the commission's top staff official, Victor Stello Jr., whom President Bush reportedly nominated to be head of production at the nation's troubled nuclear program complex. Mr. Stello has not been confirmed by the Senate, but he started the job on an acting basis last week.

'Lack of Good Judgment'

Senator John Glenn, an Ohio Democrat who is chairman of the committee, said the investigation showed "an unimpeachable lack of good judgment" by high-level staff members at the commission, which oversees civilian nuclear plants.

The investigation under scrutiny was conducted by Sharon R. Connelly, then director of the commission's Office of Inspector and Auditor, against Roger Fortuna, then deputy director of the Office of Investigation.

Two years ago, Mr. Fortuna testified before the committee when she was asked of trying to shield her deputy in charges of sexual harassment. She said last year Mrs. Connelly, whose office handles the commission's internal investigations, received a complaint about Mr. Fortuna from a former technician at the Nine Mile Point 2 reactor, near Oswego, N.Y.

A judge chosen by the commission to investigate has concluded that Mr. Fortuna had acted appropriately in his in-

The committee said the investigation wasted money.

safety problems, had not adequately handled safety complaints Mr. Ellison had expressed.

Among the panel's findings is that in seeking information derogatory to Mr. Fortuna, Mrs. Connelly asked the agency's top lawyer if she could hire an informer as a "consultant" and pay him for information and tapes of telephone conversations. The lawyer told her that she probably could not unless public health and safety was involved.

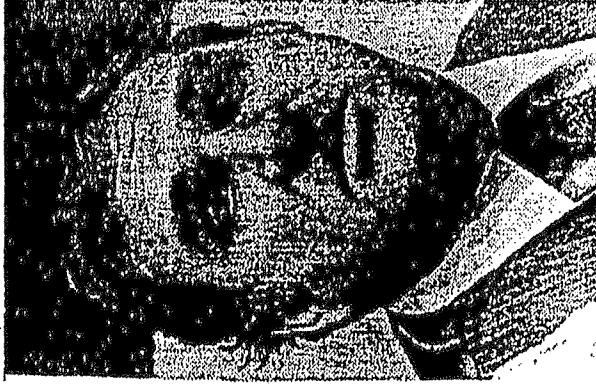
Informant's Allegations Limited

Senate investigators later questioned the lawyer, William Parler, the commission's general counsel, and he said that in hindsight he should have urged the commission to subpoena the tapes rather than pay for them, the report said.

The report does not center on Mr. Stello, but it says that he ruled that the informant might have information on reactor safety. The safety allegations the informant provided were so limited, the Senate report said, that "the case could equally be made that this safety rationale mere provided a convenient cover to do something that the N.R.C. general counsel had otherwise indicated could not be done — putting someone on the payroll to provide information pertaining to an internal affairs investigation."

A spokesman for the commission, Joseph Fouchard, said that his agency had received the study yesterday and was studying it.

A judge chosen by the commission to investigate has concluded that Mr. Fortuna had acted appropriately in his in-



The New York Times

Victor Stello Jr. as the top-ranking staff official at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission approved a \$6,000 cash payment for an informer in an internal commission investigation.

investigation of the allegations made by the technician, Mr. Fouchard said.

But the judge is still investigating whether Mr. Fortuna improperly disclosed derogatory information about the informer to an anti-nuclear activist who received information from the activist that he should have passed on to others at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The activist, Stephen B. Comley, has been subpoenaed and ordered to turn over tapes he might have of conversations between himself and Mr. Fortuna. Mr. Comley of Rowley, Mass., who heads a group, We the People, has refused to testify or provide tapes and

asserted that he receives confidential information from nuclear plant workers and cannot do anything that would damage their confidence in him.

Recently Mr. Comley was fined \$200 a day by a Federal judge in Boston, and the fines could increase to \$1,000 if he does not comply. We the People was instrumental in bringing to light last year the presence of counterfeit parts in nuclear plants around the country.

According to the Senate report, the information that Mr. Fortuna might have disclosed improperly to Mr. Comley was that the former technician had pleaded guilty to attempted sexual abuse of a 13-year-old girl. It is not clear what information Mr. Comley might have given Mr. Fortuna.

In the disputed investigation, Mr. Ellison, the informant, was paid \$6,000 and put up in a hotel near Washington for two weeks while Mrs. Connelly and two other staff members met with him. Mrs. Connelly gave him a code name and arranged her vacation for the time he was there, the report said.

The commission has asserted that Mrs. Connelly wanted to pay him rather than subpoena the tapes because Mr. Ellison had threatened to destroy the tapes. But the Senate report said that there was no evidence for that and that "to the contrary, he was threatening to go public."

The Senate committee concluded that the investigation was unfair to Mr. Fortuna, violated established principles of internal investigations and should not have so heavily involved top management. The investigation, the committee said, "represented a waste of government funds," the investigation was "incompetently conducted, punctuated by management intervention and other problems."

"In sum, we found very little reason for the course of conduct of this investigation," the committee said.

Mr. Fouchard said that the commission could not comment further because the matter is still under internal investigation.

THE PARTS ISSUE!
A COVERUP AND PR
REAGAN WAS INVOL
THERE WILL BE NO
OLLIE NORTH'S IN
THIS ONE.

THIS MUST HAVE
BEEN QUITE A
WEEK.

OVER

I NEVER SAID I WOULD NOT TESTIFY AND
THEY HAVEN'T HAD TO PAY ME, EITHER. I DO NOT LIE.