



**SIERRA CLUB** 530 Bush Street San Francisco, California 94108 (415) 981-8634

January 18, 1979

Joseph Wendrie, Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Wendrie:

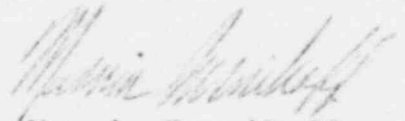
The Sierra Club is very concerned about the subject matter of the enclosed 1972 AEC memo between yourself and John O'Leary. Together with recent disclosures by the Union of Concerned Scientists concerning past statements by yourself on reactor safety, it represents an unfortunate pattern by the Chairman of a regulatory agency that surely does not instill public confidence. We are therefore asking that you clarify this matter by responding to the following questions:

- a) Did the unannounced inspection mentioned in paragraph 2 of the attached memo take place? If so, provide the date and send us a copy of the Inspection Report.
- b) Was a news release submitted to the Buffalo Evening News? If so, provide a copy.
- c) Or, was a detailed reply submitted to the News' letter columns? If so, provide a copy.
- d) Provide us further memos between Deputy Secretary O'Leary and other persons concerning this matter, in particular, the response by O'Leary back to yourself.
- e) Was the "staging" of unannounced inspections and the issuance of press releases on selected parts an isolated instance of the AEC, now the NRC, or was it established policy?

We thank you for responding to these questions in a timely fashion.

cc: Dingells  
Nowak  
LaFalce  
Kemp  
Udall  
Cubie, UCS  
BEN

Sincerely yours,

  
Marvin Resnikoff  
Sierra Club  
Box 64, Sta.G  
Buffalo, N.Y. 14213

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Note to John F. O'Leary

ANONYMOUS LETTER ABOUT NUCLEAR FUEL SERVICES, WEST VALLEY

What do you think of the attached? It is not signed and there is no return address. Still, I don't class it as a crank letter.

My first thought goes along the following lines. We ought to get Regulatory Operations to stage an unannounced inspection up there. Maybe some of Smiley's hawks ought to go along (Fuels & Materials licenses West Valley). We then ought to run a news release in the Buffalo Evening News saying we have made a surprise inspection. How much of the inspection finding should go in the release can wait until we see how it comes out.

A second thought would be to form up a detailed reply, being as factual as possible, and not sloughing off the asserted past violations at West Valley. Then I could write the Buffalo Evening News saying I've had an anonymous letter expressing various concerns, and would like to answer through the News' letter columns.

I might note NFS at West Valley has been a running sore with regard to releases, employee exposures, sloppy plant conditions, etc. Smiley and his people will be much better informed about details than I am. Also, Regulatory Operations should have some interesting things to say about West Valley.

I am not sending copies of this anywhere else, and will wait for your comment.

Original Signed by  
Joseph M. Hendrie

Joseph M. Hendrie, Deputy Director  
for Technical Review  
Directorate of Licensing

Enclosure:  
Anonymous ltr to JMHendrie  
dated 9/3/72

**POOR ORIGINAL**

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