



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
476 ALLENDALE ROAD
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406

OCT 05 1990

Docket No. 50-336

Northeast Nuclear Energy Company
ATTR: Mr. E. J. Mroczka
Senior Vice President - Nuclear
Engineering and Operations
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, Connecticut 06141-0270

Gentlemen:

Subject: Notice of Deposition [REDACTED]

It has come to our attention that counsel on your behalf sought to elicit from a complainant in a Department of Labor proceeding pursuant to Section 210 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, information regarding all contacts that the individual had had with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. A copy of the Notice of Deposition is attached.

We are concerned with the effect such broad-scale disclosures could have on the willingness of individuals to bring concerns to the NRC without having their identity disclosed. It is important that channels remain open to the NRC to receive and evaluate safety allegations. While we appreciate that litigants are generally entitled to broad discovery in civil proceedings, in Section 210 cases, we are concerned that, in certain circumstances, compelling such broad-scale disclosure could have a chilling effect and also could constitute a violation of NRC regulations (10 CFR Section 50.7) prohibiting discrimination against employees for raising safety concerns.

While we understand that, in this particular case, the complainant declined to provide the information requested, your sensitivity to such matters in the future is imperative.

Sincerely,

Karla D. Smith
Regional Attorney

cc: Bishop, Cook, Purcell & Reynolds
[REDACTED]

bcc: K. Smith
W. Raymond
D. Haverkamp
Allegation File RI-A-0108

Information in this record was deleted
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Act, exemptions b1, b7C
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