



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

PDR  
016

MAY 15 1985

Ms. Billie Pirner Garde  
Citizens Clinic Director  
Government Accountability Project  
1555 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 202  
Washington, DC 20036

IN RESPONSE REFER  
TO FOIA-85-214

Dear Ms. Garde:

This is in response to your letter of March 25, 1985, in which you requested, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), records regarding NRC Inspection Report No. 50-483/84-45 on the Callaway nuclear power plant.

We are placing copies of the ten documents listed in Appendix A in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), 1717 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555, for your inspection and copying. You may obtain access to these records by presenting a copy of this letter to the PDR staff or by requesting PDR folder FOIA-85-214 under your name.

In addition, as noted in Appendix A, four other documents pertinent to your request have previously been filed in the PDR. Their accession numbers are listed in Appendix A.

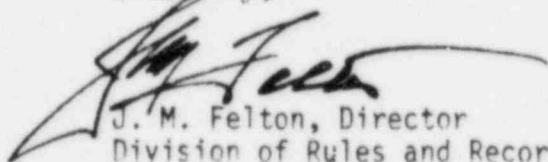
As listed in Appendix B, one other document, a draft of Inspection Report 50-483/84-45, has also been placed in the PDR in folder FOIA-85-214. Some of the marginal notes on this document contain information which constitutes advice, opinions, and recommendations of the staff. These are being withheld from public disclosure pursuant to Exemption (5) of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. 552(b)(5)) and 10 CFR 9.5(a)(5) of the Commission's regulations.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 9.9 of the Commission's regulations, it has been determined that the information withheld is exempt from production or disclosure and that its production or disclosure is contrary to the public interest. The persons responsible for this denial are the undersigned and Mr. James G. Keppler, Regional Administrator, Region III.

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This denial may be appealed to the Commission's Executive Director for Operations within 30 days from the receipt of this letter. As provided in 10 CFR 9.11, any such appeal must be in writing, addressed to the Executive Director for Operations, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and should clearly state on the envelope and in the letter that it is an "Appeal from an Initial FOIA Decision."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. M. Felton", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

J. M. Felton, Director  
Division of Rules and Records  
Office of Administration

Enclosures: As stated

# APPENDIX A

FOIA 85-214

## IN THE PDR:

- |    |         |                              |                      |
|----|---------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | 3/4/85  | Letter to Garde from Rehm    | Accession 8503120219 |
| 2. | 2/5/85  | Inspection Report 84-45      | Accession 8502280155 |
| 3. | 3/15/85 | Letter from Keppler to Garde | Accession 8503200460 |
| 4. | 1/11/85 | Letter to Garde from Keppler | Accession 8501240086 |

## IN PDR FOLDER FOIA-85-214:

1. 10/2/84 Allegation Data Form on Callaway (1 page)
2. 12/3/84 Allegation Tracking System on Callaway (1 page)
3. 1/3/85 Allegation Tracking System on Callaway (1 page)
4. 1/30/85 Letter to Keppler from Garde on Petition 2.206 (7 pages)
5. 2/4/85 Allegation Tracking System on Callway (1 page)
6. 2/25/85 Memorandum for Rehm from Keppler on Transmittal of Allegation Followup Information for GAP (3 pages)
7. 3/1/85 Memorandum for Pawlik from Weil on GAP Allegations at Callaway (1 page)
8. 3/10/85 Allegation Tracking System on Callway (1 page)
9. Undated Chronology of RIII Actions related to Negotiations with GAP for Information on Allegations at Callaway (3 pages)
10. Undated Newspaper article from St. Louis Post-Dispatch on Safety Allegations (1 page)

APPENDIX B

FOIA 85-214

1. 12/20/84 Annotated copy of the draft Inspection Report 50-483/84-45 (DRP).  
(44 pages)

*Jainy/Pelke*

**GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT**

1555 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 202  
Washington, D.C. 20036

(202) 232-8550

January 30, 1985

Docket No. STN 50-483

James G. Keppler  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region III  
799 Roosevelt Road  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

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RE: NRC Region III Investigation of Concerned Citizens  
About Callaway 2.206 Petition

Dear Mr. Keppler:

Recently we received your letter of January 11, 1985, stating that Region III planned to issue an inspection report concerning the allegations provided in the September 28, 1984 2.206 petition. 1/ Your letter indicated that NRC Region III would not pursue the additional available information regarding the serious safety allegations in the petition. GAP, Concerned Citizens About Callaway, former and present workers at the Callaway Plant and the general public who are concerned for their own health and safety find this decision not to pursue safety allegation information disappointing, to say the least. Clearly, GAP's most recent meeting with the NRC representatives concerning this additional information must have been part of a bureaucratic game with rules designed by the NRC.

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1/ This petition was submitted by the Concerned Citizens About Callaway and not, as you state in your letter, the Concerned Citizens Against Callaway. Concerned Citizens About Callaway is a group of individuals who reside in the vicinity of the Callaway Nuclear Power Plant and seek to ensure the health and safety of their community. They have sought GAP's assistance concerning the safe construction and operation of the Callaway Plant. In theory, the goals of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Concerned Citizens About Callaway are congruous with each other. However, the most recent decision, issued from your office, raises serious doubt as to the agency's commitment to the health and safety of the public.

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NRC Region III made several requests of GAP for additional information ever since the 2.206 petition was filed on September 28, 1984. 2/ Obtaining more information, according to Region III, was critical to any further investigation. NRC representatives admitted that the agency was unable to proceed without additional information. 3/ This need was also expressed in correspondences to GAP from both Frank Miraglia, Deputy Director of the Division of Licensing, and Harold R. Denton, Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. 4/ Finally, on November 30, 1984, GAP and the NRC met to discuss this matter. At this meeting, the NRC was informed that additional pertinent information did exist and was available.

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2/ a) As documented in Enclosure 3 of an October 16, 1984 memorandum from Region III Administrator, James Keppler to Harold Denton, Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, the NRC Staff has had personal discussion or telephone conversation with representatives of GAP on October 4, 5 and 8, 11, 12, and 15, 1984, for purpose of obtaining additional information which GAP relied upon to prepare the allegations.

b) November 7, 1984 letter from Harold Denton, Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and a November 21, 1984 letter from Frank Miraglia, Deputy Director of the Division of Licensing, to Billie Garde, GAP, requests additional information regarding the allegations.

3/ At the Meeting of the Commission on October 4, 1984, C. Norelius, Director of Projects, Region III stated that the NRC must meet with GAP so that the NRC "might more specifically understand what the allegations are, because many of them are so general that they're difficult to deal with in the form presented." (pg. 50, meeting transcript)

4/ The November 7, 1984 letter from H. Denton to GAP states: "...in the absence of more specific information supporting the petition, it is difficult to assess the need for further action." Furthermore, he states, "that the (NRC) staff is prepared to meet with allegers to ensure that all avenues of information are explored. By permitting the NRC to discuss the concerns directly with the allegers, GAP will be assured that a thorough review of the allegations has been performed."

Also Frank Miraglia in his November 21, 1984 letter to GAP states that "the staff will find it difficult to assess the need for further action without additional information."

James G. Keppler  
January 30, 1985  
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Since that meeting, however, the NRC has changed its position regarding its commitment to safety concerns. The recent decision expressed in your letter indicates that the NRC Region III is no longer interested in the information which six weeks ago was vital to any inspection. It appears that the November 30, 1984 meeting was useless. After six weeks of non-decision we are far short of the status quo. Moreover it demonstrates the agency's eagerness to follow empty procedure at the expense of those who attempt to work with the agency.

What astonishes GAP about the Region's decision was the obvious ineffective and inefficient investigative process that the agency has chosen to take. The Region has expended considerable inspection resources, after admitting that the lack of substantial additional information would affect the depth and outcome of the investigation. Now the Region has decided to finalize its efforts with the issuance of an inspection report without having utilized all available information. This inspection report without a doubt will be the culmination of the bureaucratic gamesmanship.

However astonishing, such Region III techniques are not new to GAP. The NRC, in its approach to whistleblowers, uses inadequate inspection efforts. For example:

\* The NRC mischaracterized allegations. Inspection Report 50-483/84-30 contains summaries of 25 allegations provided during the summer of 1984 to the NRC in an interview with the allegeders. Many of the allegations, as presented by the NRC, are misinterpretations of the whistleblowers' allegations. The summaries are incomplete sentences pulled from various parts of the interview transcript. The NRC left plenty of room for interpretation of each allegation. These summaries are as clear as they are concise.

\* The NRC made no re-contact with the allegeders to clear up mischaracterized allegations. Instead, the NRC proceeded to investigate the allegations as they saw fit, even if it was substantially unrelated to the meaning of the whistleblowers' allegations.

\* As a result of the haste and poor investigative procedures, the allegations within Inspection Report 50-483/84-30 were contrary to the information brought to the NRC by the allegeders;

\* The NRC inspection report 50-483/84-30 reflected a paperwork review relying on the utility's self-serving explanations. The paperwork review is based on the assumption that the paperwork is thorough and accurate. Furthermore, the NRC has not disclosed the supporting data and calculations for evaluation of the whistleblowers' allegations;



James G. Keppler  
January 30, 1985  
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\* The NRC has narrowly defined issues raised by the whistleblowers and failed to inspect beyond hardware examples the witnesses were able to identify specifically;

\* The NRC has swept away the safety significance of the allegations from any realistic role in the investigation or the full power licensing of the Callaway plant;

\* The results of the investigation were published in an inspection report almost six months after the interviews and one week before the Callaway plant went critical.

\* The NRC has attempted to discredit whistleblowers, citizens groups, or simply interested individuals by questioning their motives, integrity, and technical competence to raise questions about public health and safety.

\* The NRC has failed to utilize all available information pertaining to the 2.206 safety allegations.

\* James Keppler's October 16, 1984 letter to Harold Denton recommending Callaway for full power licensing, categorized the forty-eight allegations submitted by GAP and contained conclusions drawn from less than the information available to Region III.

In sum, the statements above represent the NRC Region III's failure to investigate in good faith and to protect the public and those who dare to come forward with safety allegations. Nonetheless, this is business as usual for Region III.

Again the NRC Region III has decided to continue with its paper chase when, admittedly, it is not worthwhile. The inspection report issued on the 2.206 petition can only be a thoroughly blurred interpretation of the September 28, 1984 allegations. GAO's view is that the inspection report need not be issued at all since the inspection has been conducted only as a part of the agency's insincerity. Indeed, it is a colossal waste of taxpayer's money. More important, it is evidence of the agency's confusion as to its own responsibilities and duties. The allegations potentially effect the public health and safety, not the NRC's credibility. Your agency, authorized by Congress, is responsible for the health and safety of the public and also has a duty to competently investigate in good faith the safety allegations brought to your agency by nuclear workers.

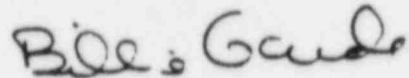
It is clear from a review of the record of this case, that your primary, if not your only, objective was to the the Callaway Nuclear Power Plant licensed. You stated as much to a GAP representative in mid-October, "the NRC is not going to wait around for GAP to give us information, we want to get this plant (Callaway) licensed!" Mr. Keppler, ultimately your reputation



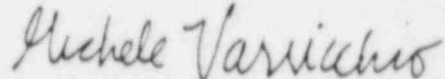
James G. Keppler  
January 30, 1985  
Page Five

may have grown in the eyes of your superiors due to your new tough line approach to allegations, but at the same time it has equally diminished in the eyes of those who are concerned about the safety and health of the public and thought you were also.

Sincerely,



Billie Garde  
Director of Citizens Clinic



Michele Varricchio  
Staff Associate

cc: Callaway Service List

CALLAWAY SERVICE LIST

D. F. Schnell  
Vice President - Nuclear  
Union Electric Company  
Post Office Box 149  
St. Louis, Missouri 63166

Nicholas A. Petrick  
Executive Director - SNUPPS  
5 Choke Cherry Road  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Gerald Charnoff, Esquire  
Thomas A. Baxter, Esquire  
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge  
1800 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

J. E. Birk  
Assistant to the General Counsel  
Union Electric Company  
Post Office Box 149  
St. Louis, Missouri 63166

John Neisler  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Resident Inspectors Office  
RR#1  
Steedman, Missouri 65077

Donald W. Capone, Manager  
Nuclear Engineering  
Union Electric Company  
Post Office Box 149  
St. Louis, Missouri 63166

A. Scott Cauger, Esquire  
Assistant General Counsel for the  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
Post Office Box 360  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Ms. Marjorie Reilly  
Energy Chairman of the League of Women  
Voters of University City, Missouri  
7065 Pershing Avenue  
University City, Missouri 63130

Donald Bollinger, Member  
Missourians for Safe Energy  
6267 Delmar Boulevard  
University City, Missouri 63130

Mayor Howard Steffen  
Chamois, Missouri 65024

Professor William H. Miller  
Missouri Kansas Section, American  
Nuclear Society  
Department of Nuclear Engineering  
1026 Engineering Building  
University of Missouri  
Columbia, Missouri 65211

Robert G. Wright  
Associate Judge, Eastern District  
County Court, Callaway County,  
Missouri  
Route #1  
Fulton, Missouri 65251

Lewis C. Green, Esquire  
Green, Hennings & Henry  
Attorney for Joint Intervenors  
314 North Broadway, Suite 1830  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

Earl Brown  
School District Superintendent  
Post Office Box 9  
Kingdom City, Missouri 65262

Harold Lottman  
Presiding Judge, Dasconade County  
Route 1  
Owensville, Missouri 65066

Eric A. Eisen, Esquire  
Birch, Horton, Bittner and Moore  
Suite 1100  
1140 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 10036

John G. Reed  
Route #1  
Kingdom City, Missouri 65262

Dan I. Bolef, President  
Kay Drey, Representative  
Board of Directors Coalition for  
the Environment  
St. Louis Region  
6267 Delmar Boulevard  
University City, Missouri 63130

CALLAWAY SERVICE LIST

-2-

James G. Keppler  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region III  
799 Roosevelt Road  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Ronald A. Kucera, Deputy Director  
Department of Natural Resources  
Post Office Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Glenn L. Koester  
Vice President - Nuclear  
Kansas Gas and Electric Company  
201 North Market Street  
Post Office Box 208  
Wichita, Kansas 67201

M-1246110

MUN DATE: 02/04/85

## ALLEGATION TRACKING SYSTEM

H/S

Drf

## DATA BASE REVIEW/UPDATE SHEET

DATA AS OF THE END OF  
JANUARY 1985

STATUS? Closed

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ALLEGATION NUMBER:	H111-B4-A-0138
FACILITY/DOCKET:	CALLAWAY 1 05000483
FUNCTIONAL AREA:	ON-SITE HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSTRUCTION SAFEGUARDS
DESCRIPTION:	48 ALLEGATIONS: WELDING; WELDER QUALITY SITE SCREENING; TLD MONITORING; CONCRETE REPAIRS; ELECTRICAL.
SOURCE:	ORG - GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT
DATE RECEIVED:	10/02/84
PERSON RECEIVING:	PH PELKE
OFFICE RECEIVING:	W3
ACTION OFFICE CONTACT:	WL FUNNEY
FIS PHONE NUMBER:	388-5590
STATUS:	OPEN
DATE CLOSED:	
REMARKS:	REVIEWED IN REPORT 84-45. REPORT IN DRAFT. ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE: 1/31/85.

Completion Date? Report Issued 2/05/85