

FEB 5 1981

Ad
Circular 2-1

To All NRC-Licensed Operators

I am enclosing a copy of an IE Circular which discusses licensed operator performance while on duty.

Before you read this Circular, I want to point out to you that I feel that, as a group, NRC-licensed Operators (ROs and SROs) are highly motivated, very competent and dedicated to nuclear safety. You have a demanding job with significant responsibilities. The exceptional safety record of the nuclear power industry attests to the fact that routinely you operators perform the numerous tasks you are assigned in a professional and competent manner. In today's climate, you are subjected to pressures and unfavorable comments which are not deserved. As the NRC official with the responsibility for issuing the enforcement actions taken by this agency, I feel a deep concern that necessary enforcement actions against individuals not be interpreted as broad condemnation of operators in general. Cautionary messages, such as the enclosed Circular are meant to serve as reminders and cautions to guide your actions, not as personal criticism.

While I may initiate enforcement actions against individuals as the specific circumstances may warrant, they will be based on my obligation to take such actions to protect the health and safety of the public. The desire for a safe nuclear industry is, I am sure, shared by each of you as well.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Victor Stello

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PDR FOIA
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Victor Stello, Jr.
Director
Office of Inspection
and Enforcement

Enclosure: IE Circular "Performance
of NRC-Licensed Individuals While
on Duty"

Distribution:

IE Files

NC Moseley

D Thompson & V Stello, Jr.

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