



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

February 3, 1997

IA 96-063

Mr. Larry Helmick  
[HOME ADDRESS DELETED  
UNDER 10 CFR 2.790]

SUBJECT: NRC INVESTIGATION REPORT NO. 4-96-005

Dear Mr. Helmick:

This refers to your reply to the NRC's October 8, 1996 letter to you. Our letter discussed the results of NRC investigation 4-96-005, particularly your attempt to cover up your involvement in performing maintenance on the wrong valve at Cooper Nuclear Station in December 1995. Your reply, which was undated, was received by the NRC in early November 1996.

The NRC took no formal enforcement action against you, but requested that you respond in writing and inform us as to why the NRC should have confidence that you will adhere to requirements and provide complete and accurate information should you in the future be employed in the nuclear industry.

In your response, you stated "... I do learn from my mistakes and that I am not the kind of person this incident has made me out to be." You also stated that you had concerns about the thoroughness of the investigation and asked whether all of the individuals involved received the same kind of letter.

The NRC did not send letters to all of the individuals involved in the December 1995 incident. The NRC's focus and concern were on the overt actions by you and another electrician to cover up your involvement in the incident. Your actions were distinct from the others in that you initiated an attempt to convince other workers not to volunteer information about your involvement in the incident.

The NRC considers this matter closed and plans no further action. In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, records or documents compiled for enforcement purposes are placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). A copy of this letter with your address removed, our October 8, 1996 letter and your response will be placed in the PDR. A copy also will be forwarded to Nebraska Public Power District, your former employer.

Sincerely,

*L. J. Callan*

for L. J. Callan  
Regional Administrator

9702050016 970203  
PDR ADOCK 05000298  
Q PDR

Enclosures: As Stated

cc w/Enclosures: (See next page)

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Mr. Larry Helmnick

-2-

cc w/Enclosures:

G. R. Horn, Senior Vice President  
of Energy Supply  
Nebraska Public Power District  
1414 15th Street  
Columbus, Nebraska 68601

Mr. Larry Helmick

-3-

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\*attach Oct. 8, 1996 letter and reply  
PDR\*

~~NUDOCS\*~~

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Dear Mr. Callan:

This is in reference to the investigation report No. 96-001.

You have asked for a written response to your letter dated October 8, 1996 as to why the NRC should have confidence in me if I am employed in the nuclear industry.

First let me state that I do learn from my mistakes and that I am not the kind of person this incident has made me out to be. There was a lot of information I was not privy to and feel was very important in this investigation. I feel the truth has been set aside to save people's jobs and to keep management from looking bad. I am concerned about Cooper Station and the way it is run due to the fact I live 10 miles from it and there are a lot of good people that depend on it for income and it supplies power for the state of Nebraska.

I feel I am a very honest and forthright person with honest concerns if you would have reviewed the court record from my unemployment trail you would have learned that no one was sure of what I said and a lot of people thought I was in the quads near the valve when I wasn't. The fact that a supervisor knew the whole situation and didn't say anything bothers me when he is still employed and I'm not. Also it was identified who signed what on the procedure and when and when it was terminated and when it was performed this was revealed during my grievance hearing, the only thing no one could really explain was why it was performed after it was terminated.

In reference to you saying I declined to provide specific information, I feel this is not true due to the fact I talked to Robert Kirspel and Russell Wise as a matter of fact the last time I talked to Mr. Wise he told me that if he needed anymore information he would get back to me. This was in August and he said they were still investigating and this appears not to be true according to your letter.

In conclusion I would like to put this matter behind me but I do feel a more thorough investigation should have been conducted. I am also wondering if all of the other six individuals involved received the same kind of letter you sent me in respect to employment in the Nuclear industry as I am the only one not employed in the Nuclear industry. I respectfully wait for your reply to this letter. Thank You.

Sincerely,

Larry Helmick  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

RECEIVED RIV  
ALLEGATIONS

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