

January 7, 1985

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

Dear Mr. Keppler:

On November 27, 1984 you were notified by Mr. James Cook of Consumers Power Company ("CPCo") that Ruskin Manufacturing Company ("Ruskin") had filed a Part 21 report about three models of HVAC Interlocking Blade Fire Dampers. As you may recall, several of GAP's clients raised the problems with the Ruskin Fire Dampers several years ago. Specifically, we are referring to the complaints of Mr. Dean Darty in 1979, 1980 and 1982; and also of Mr. Earl Kent in 1982.

Mr. Cook's letter erroneously reports that the problems with the dampers were originally recognized at the Palo Verde nuclear station when the dampers failed to close under normal duct pressure.

GAP is interested in why the NRC/Region III did not take appropriate action in 1980 when the fire damper problem was first reported. We request the following information regarding the Ruskin Fire Dampers:

1. What model types are included in the Part 21 notification?
2. What action, if any, was taken in the 1979-82 time frame to determine whether the problems ultimately discovered in operation at Palo Verde were a potential?
3. What notification, if any, did Region III give to the other Regional NRC offices, or to the operators and constructors of nuclear power plants?
4. What action was taken by Region III or the vendor inspection branch to determine when Ruskin or the Zack Corporation decided to notify the NRC about the problems known to both corporations for several years?

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5. Has this matter been, or will it be, referred to the Office of Investigations ("OI") for investigation into the four-year delay of a Part 21 notification?
6. What efforts have been taken to issue an Information Bulletin regarding the Ruskin Fire Dampers?
7. What program is in place, if any, to determine the generic implications of allegations given to the NRC?

By separate request filed today under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), we have requested all information developed on this issue. GAP would appreciate a response as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Billie Pirner Garde

Billie Pirner Garde
Citizens Clinic Director

BPG:me

cc: William Dircks, EDO
Darrell Eisenhut, NRR
Ben Hayes, OI
Dean Dartey
Terry Howard

enclosure