



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

September 11, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: IE Inspectors

FROM: Victor Stello, Jr., Director, Office of
Inspection and Enforcement

SUBJECT: INSPECTOR QUALITIES

As an NRC inspector you are a vital contributor to nuclear safety. You and other NRC inspectors form the cutting edge of our regulatory program because you are located in the field where you can personally observe and improve the performance of licensees. In order to properly fulfill your responsibilities, you must have at least three important qualities: honesty, devotion to duty, and professional knowledge.

It is essential that inspectors be honest and open. Openness means giving a complete, accurate and timely report, not simply justifying a point of view. An important guideline related to honesty is to perform your work so that there is no real or apparent conflict of interest. Inspector credibility is essential to assuring the public that their interests are protected. Even the appearance of a conflict of interest destroys credibility.

Devotion to duty involves several aspects. First, you must continually remind yourself that as an inspector in an area of significant national concern, you are a true servant of the people. Your primary goal should not be to foster your own career or organization but rather to serve the public. Second, you should believe in tough but fair inspections and you should have an inquiring attitude that probes for adequate protection. Not only should a licensee be in compliance, but also the license conditions should be adequate. If they are not, you should do your best to get them changed.

Professional knowledge means that you must know all aspects of your job. For example, you must:


1. Fully understand the mission of the Office of Inspection and Enforcement.
2. Have excellent technical knowledge in your inspection specialty.
3. Be thoroughly familiar with the various regulations, guides, standards, codes and other documents to which licensees are committed.

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4. Know how to obtain factual information through the process of conducting interviews, reviewing records and witnessing work activities.

During your career in IE you will receive a mix of formal classroom and on-the-job training as well as programmed self-study to help you improve your inspection abilities. This Manual is associated with the Fundamentals of Inspection course which is one part of the training program. The course has been prepared by experienced inspectors and managers and is intended to provide you with the benefits of their knowledge.

I hope you will continuously keep in mind the qualities of integrity, devotion to duty, and professional knowledge. I wish you success in your training program and your career.


Victor Stello, Jr.
Director
Office of Inspection and
Enforcement

