

Dr. Muhammad Shambaky  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
475 Allendale Road  
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May 5, 1997

Dear Sirs, Madam,

I would like to thank-you for conducting the open hearings such as the one I had the privilege of attending on Thursday, May 1st, 1997.

I am writing to share some of my observations and comments with you all. Perhaps they are not to be considered as you make your final judgements with regard to the Wilmington VA Medical Center, but nonetheless I am a member of the public whose interests are supposed to be served and represented here.

It would appear to a reasonably intelligent person, that without fail, every officer and representative of the Wilmington VA Medical Center, in his turn, alleged that the former RSO somehow caused or precipitated the conditions which lead to every violation that exists in its Nuclear Medicine program.

In addition, asserting that by replacing one full time RSO with one who will dedicate just one full day per week to managing and executing this seemingly monumental list of responsibilities (albeit with the 12 hour per week assistance of his consultant), that all of their troubles will disappear.

It appears to me that there was not only a conscious, but a conspiratorial effort on the part of the management of the Wilmington VA Medical Center to scapegoat Dr. Asaf Durakovic, the former RSO, whose name none of them dared to call on that day.

I am a parent and also own and manage my own business. I share this with you to say that anyone who parents or has any managerial responsibilities knows that inherent in that structure, ultimate responsibility and stewardship lies with those in the top positions of authority. I am ultimately responsible for how my home is governed, not my children, and also for all of the affairs of my business and how my employees execute their responsibilities. The staff and management of the Wilmington facility would have us believe otherwise though:

\* that Dr. Durakovic was responsible for training those above him in authority, as well as those under his authority.

\* that a man whose job performance was worthy of commendation by the same said

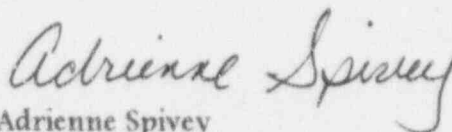
facility, now attempts to make him solely responsible for all of its recent violations.

\* that a person demonstrating the lack of understanding and proper execution of his job duties would have the presence of mind to initiate an inspection of the facility by the NRC. And if one is to believe that there is a shred of truth to these absurd accusations, then one must ask why was such a person kept in the employ of the facility for over eight years?

I have information that indicates that Dexter Dix has written to Senator Biden alleging that no violations had been discovered at the facility and that the job performance of Dr. Durakovic was impeccable and in no way led to his being relieved of his duties at the facility. Only at the time of this hearing did Mr. Dix have a reversal of opinion and attitude toward Dr. Durakovic.

It appears to me that the officers and representatives of the Wilmington VA Medical Center present on that day, were attempting to scapegoat one man in the effort to conceal their collective ineptitude and wanton disregard for the safety and wellbeing of American citizens. I find this behavior abhorrent, and it is my sincere hope that the NRC investigators will not take these violations (some of them serious indeed), and the persons found to have perpetuated them, lightly.

Respectfully,



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