



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

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November 30, 1978

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRMAN

MEMORANDUM FOR: Floyd S. Cantrell, Reactor Inspector
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region II

FROM: Chairman Hendrie *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: PHYSICAL SECURITY INSPECTIONS AT POWER REACTORS

I was pleased to receive a copy of your August 16, 1978 memorandum containing your views on safeguards enforcement policy. I have read with interest your comments and those of Mr. Davis, Mr. O'Reilly, Mr. Long and Mr. Dance. I think that you have articulated some problems in our inspection and enforcement activities with which there is general agreement. It appears the Office of Inspection and Enforcement has underway actions which should be responsive to your concerns.

The Commission has found safeguards regulation of reactors to be particularly challenging. It is an area of strongly held and frequently differing opinions. Attempts at mutual understandings of safeguards issues have required unusual effort on the part of the Commission and the NRC staff. Safeguards issues are complex, in some cases, since the sensitivity of certain safeguards information makes it necessary that the NRC depart from its traditional role of openness. Yet, the challenge of safeguards issues should urge all of us to greater commitment in fulfilling our mission of public safety.

The Commission has been aware for some time that the Office of Inspection and Enforcement has underway modifications to its enforcement program. We have a direct interest in this program and recently asked that certain aspects of it be opened to public comment. We believe that public comment will be important in assuring a rational enforcement program with balanced perspective.

I appreciate your comments and thank you for having them brought to the Commission's attention. The viewpoints of NRC staff members are very important to us in assessing the adequacy and reasonableness of our programs. I look forward to seeing you and the other staff members on my next visit to Region II.

cc: (See next page)

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Floyd S. Cantrell

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cc: Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Kennedy
Commissioner Bradford
Commissioner Ahearne
J. R. Miller, NRR
E. M. Howard, IE
J. P. O'Reilly, RII
G. C. Gower, IE
F. J. Long, RII
J. G. Davis, IE