



November 16, 1978

The Honorable Morris K. Udall  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Environment  
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I find I have to respond separately to your questions of September 18th concerning our Executive Director's testimony on July 29 and August 8, 1977. Let me take the questions in order.

1. Does the Commission believe that on July 29 and August 8, 1977 Mr. Gossick to the best of his ability presented truthful and complete testimony in responding to questions asked by Committee members?

I do not believe he did. Mr. Gossick's testimony on July 29 and August 8, 1977 was neither truthful nor complete, not even to the best of his ability. I would make clear that I take no view here of what exactly was in Mr. Gossick's mind at the time he testified.

2. Does the Commission believe that on July 29, 1977 Mr. Gossick had a responsibility to present a more accurate description of the NRC's state of knowledge about NUMEC; e.g., a statement more consistent with the Conran Task Force report and attachments thereto?

I do. Mr. Gossick had a responsibility to present a more accurate description of the NRC's state of knowledge of the NUMEC matter than he did. This responsibility was in no way affected by any lack of precision in the definition of his role of Executive Director.

3. Does the Commission believe that Mr. Gossick's testimony on July 29 and August 8, 1977 and his subsequent response to Committee inquiries (including the testimony on February 27, 1978) meets the standards of performance the Commission expects of its Executive Director?

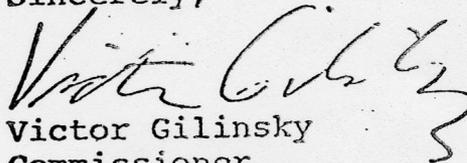
I do not. The testimony on the two dates and, even more importantly, the subsequent defense of it falls far short of the standard of performance I would expect of an Executive Director.

4. Does the Commission believe this is a matter where disciplinary action is required?

The situation certainly called for disciplinary action. However, so much time has gone by and resolution of this matter has been so delayed that responsibility has in many ways shifted to the Commission. I still think that the Commission needs to state that it regards this specific matter seriously. The need for such a statement has not been altered by the Commission's in effect instructing Mr. Gossick to correct his testimony and by Mr. Gossick's subsequent letters to the Congress.

The saddest part of this melancholy affair, which should have been resolved long ago, is that it took Commission direction to Mr. Gossick to get him to concede error and that the Commission itself acted only when pressed by the Congress.

Sincerely,

  
Victor Gilinsky  
Commissioner