

NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION III

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NRC PROHIBITS FORMER CLERICAL WORKER AT D. C. COOK PLANT FROM WORKING IN NRC-LICENSED ACTIVITIES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued an order prohibiting a former clerical worker at the D. C. Cook Nuclear Power Station from being involved in NRC-licensed activities for three years as a result of her providing false information at the time of her employment. The plant is located near Bridgman, Michigan.

The worker, Gail C. VanCleave, was employed by a contractor at D. C. Cook from September 17 to November 18 of last year and had unescorted access to the plant.

NRC regulations require that employees with unescorted access to a nuclear plant undergo a security screening to assure that they do not represent a threat to plant safety.

The NRC Office of Investigations determined that she provided a false social security number in an attempt to conceal the fact that she had been denied unescorted access previously to the Cook plant in January 1999 and to a Tennessee nuclear plant in November 1998. In each case, she had been denied access because of a misdemeanor conviction for theft from a Department of Energy contractor.

When the false social security number was discovered, the Cook security department terminated her unescorted access to the plant.

In addition to the prohibition from NRC-licensed activities for three years, she is required to notify the NRC if she is employed in NRC-licensed work during the subsequent three years.