



UNITED STATES  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
REGION IV  
1600 EAST LAMAR BLVD  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

May 30, 2012

The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Markey:

Thank you for your May 9, 2012, letter to the NRC Chairman, concerning allegations of intimidation and retaliation against NRC Region IV inspectors for raising safety concerns. In response to your letter, the NRC's Inspector General (IG) initiated an investigation the week of May 14<sup>th</sup> related to the concerns identified in RIV Staff's letter to you dated April 24, 2012. However, as described in the original letter, the IG is neither impartial in this matter, nor are they trained to objectively evaluate safety culture issues. In particular, based upon the line of questioning by the IG, it appears that they are more interested in establishing that the safety issues identified by RIV Staff were appropriately dispositioned rather than Mr. Pruett's intimidating management style which has created a 'chilled' work environment. Specifically, the issue involving the 'red' finding at Fort Calhoun was provided as an example of Mr. Pruett's repressive management style and that in spite of his inappropriate actions, the dedication and integrity of Region IV's staff resulted in the appropriate disposition of this issue. Accordingly, it is requested that an industry recognized organization, specializing in the evaluation of safety culture issues, such as, Conger and Elsea Inc., conduct an independent evaluation of these concerns and that a court appointed administrative law judge be assigned to oversee this investigation in order to document the results in a fair and unbiased report.

Sincerely,

Region IV Staff