

EXHIBIT 8

Case No. 2-1998-027

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EXHIBIT 8

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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In the Matter of :
INTERVIEW OF :
VERNON P. LAW :
(CLOSED) :
- - - - -x

Watts Barr Nuclear Power Plant

Thursday, January 14, 1999

The above-entitled matter came on for interview,
pursuant to notice.

BEFORE:

DARRELL WHITE, Special Agent

APPEARANCES:

EDWARD J. VIGLUICCI, ESQ.
Office of the General Counsel
Tennessee Valley Authority

ANN RILEY & ASSOCIATES, LTD.
Court Reporters
1025 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 1014
Washington, D.C. 20036

2-1998-027

(202) 842-0034

EXHIBIT 8

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C O N T E N T S

WITNESS

EXAMINATION

VERNON P. LAW

BY MR. WHITE

4

E X H I B I T S

NUMBER

IDENTIFIED

[NONE.]

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. WHITE: [In progress] . . . January 14th,
3 1999. This is an interview of Vernon Paul Law.

4 Mr. Law, if you could just spell your full name
5 for me for the record. First name.

6 THE INTERVIEWEE: V-e-r-n-o-n.

7 MR. WHITE: And last name.

8 THE INTERVIEWEE: L-a-w.

9 MR. WHITE: Okay. And this will be regarding Mr.
10 Law's knowledge of the events and circumstances as he
11 recalls them surrounding a meeting held on May 11th, 1995 at
12 Watts Barr Nuclear Power Plant.

13 The interview is being conducted at Watts Barr
14 Nuclear Power Plant, and present at the interview will be
15 Mr. Law and myself. I'm Darrell White, W-h-i-t-e, a special
16 agent with the Office of Investigations for the Nuclear
17 Regulatory Commission.

18 Mr. Law, I'm just going to swear you to your
19 statement.

20 Whereupon,

21 VERNON P. LAW,

22 the Interviewee, was called for examination and, having been
23 first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

24 MR. WHITE: For the record, Mr. Law, I'm going to
25 show you my credentials, and I identified myself to you,

1 okay?

2 THE INTERVIEWEE: Okay.

3 MR. WHITE: Also present today will be Ed
4 Vigluicci, an attorney for Tennessee Valley Authority, and
5 Ed, if you could just spell your last name for --

6 MR. VIGLUICCI: Sure. It's V-i-g-l-u-i-c-c-i.

7 MR. WHITE: Okay.

8 EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. WHITE:

10 Q Paul, have you been interviewed before on this
11 topic?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q And when was that and under what circumstances?

14 A I provided testimony in a DOL hearing for Curtis
15 Overall.

16 Q Okay. And when was that approximately? What year
17 do you think?

18 A It looks like it's about about December of '97.
19 Is that what this --

20 Q Yes.

21 MR. VIGLUICCI: That's my note at the top of your
22 transcript, yes. The trial took place on two days, the 17th
23 and 18th of 1997.

24 THE INTERVIEWEE: Okay.

25 BY MR. WHITE:

1 Q And why were you called as a witness, Paul?

2 A Because of some involvement that I had at the time
3 that the issue was being discussed. I was actually there
4 and was working on the same project with Mr. Overall.

5 Q Okay. The reason I would like to talk to you
6 today is that we received an allegation, and the alleged has
7 stated that he was present during a May 11th, 1995 meeting
8 where a statement was allegedly made directing the system
9 support group, systems engineers, not to write PERs, and
10 that would be a problem evaluation report, or a design
11 change notice, a DCN, relating to anything other than fuel
12 loading issues, and this was prior to the startup of the
13 plant in the Fall of 1995.

14 Do you recall being present at that meeting?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q Okay. And if you could just describe just in
17 detail a little bit about who called the meeting, who was
18 directing the meeting and why the meeting was held, and then
19 we'll go in some more issues.

20 A The meeting was a meeting of the system engineers
21 at the time. It was a meeting that we held on a periodic
22 basis to kind of keep the system engineers abreast of the
23 activities and what was going on at the time since we were
24 getting close to fuel load.

25 This particular meeting, Mr. McCormick was the one

1 that had called the meeting and was conducting the meeting.

2 Q Approximately how many people would be in
3 attendance in that meeting?

4 A I would estimate between 30 and 50 people.

5 Q And who else spoke at that meeting, Paul?

6 A Typically when we had our meetings, the tech
7 support manager, which was Dennis Koehl, would come by to
8 also provide us information from an upper management
9 standpoint to also kind of give us the big picture more than
10 just in our group, what was going on in the plant.

11 Q Okay. And if you could just relate to me what Mr.
12 Koehl -- the gist of his part of the meeting, what he voiced
13 in that meeting or what you took away from that meeting as
14 best you can recall now four years later.

15 A What I understood Dennis to be telling us at that
16 time was that we were getting close to fuel load, and that
17 we needed to make sure that the items that we were
18 addressing pertained to fuel load. I don't remember
19 anything being said about not identifying any problems or
20 anything like that, but that we needed to make sure that we
21 prioritized any problems that were identified to make sure
22 that the more important items got dressed -- addressed by
23 the time we got ready to load fuel, and then anything other
24 than that would be prioritized and worked later on a, you
25 know, a prioritized basis.

1 Q Did you take that that you couldn't write a PER on
2 a non-fuel-related item prior to startup, but that you could
3 write one but it would be addressed later?

4 A Well, I didn't -- I didn't understand him to say
5 that we weren't to write PERs. It has been my understanding
6 all along at Watts Barr that if there was a problem, you
7 wrote whatever the -- we've had different programs; at that
8 time, it was a PER -- you would write it, but then it would
9 get prioritized, and then obviously they would work those
10 that related to fuel load. I mean, if there was something
11 wrong in the plant that related to fuel load, then we would
12 get those done first, but then the other ones would be
13 addressed later, they wouldn't just be discarded.

14 Q Okay. So at any time, did you feel like there was
15 an atmosphere where you couldn't write a PER that was
16 non-fuel-load related?

17 A No, I don't -- I didn't get that feeling at all.

18 Q Okay. After the meeting, did anyone voice a
19 concern to you that that's what they came away from the
20 meeting with?

21 A No, sir.

22 Q Okay. Do you think non-fuel-related PERs were
23 written, or do you have any knowledge that such PERs were
24 written after that meeting leading up to startup?

25 A I'm sure there were lots of outstanding PERs

1 because we went through and did a review of outstanding
2 items that needed to be worked and we prioritized those, and
3 I was involved in some of my own systems, and those items
4 that we deemed not to have any effect on fuel load, then we
5 went back and worked them, you know, afterwards.

6 Q So you were receiving PERs that were non-fuel-load
7 related, but they were just segregated and prioritized?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q Okay.

10 MR. WHITE: I would like to go off the record now.
11 It's 3:07. We'll go off the record for just a moment.

12 [Off the record.]

13 MR. WHITE: We're back on the record now and it's
14 3:10 p.m.

15 And just remind you, Paul, you're still under
16 oath.

17 BY MR. WHITE:

18 Q Are there any issues or any concerns that I didn't
19 ask you that you think might be relevant to this allegation
20 in any way that you might could shed light or bring out
21 anything that might be of concern in this issue?

22 A Not that I'm aware of, no, sir.

23 Q Okay. So I'll just go back over this. You have
24 been interviewed once before on this same topic, not in
25 great detail, but it was addressed during a Department of

1 Labor trial, and you were -- you recalled being at that
2 meeting and it was held by Mr. McCormick along with
3 technical support, individuals from technical support,
4 roughly 30 to 50 individuals, but a good number of
5 individuals were at the meeting.

6 Mr. McCormick covered general topics and then
7 Dennis Koehl was asked to come in and speak and he provided
8 information at the meeting from a manager's perspective, a
9 higher up in TVA, and he addressed issues leading up to the
10 fuel loading issues.

11 A That's correct.

12 Q And Mr. Koehl discussed management's concerns that
13 they didn't want to expend excess manpower or money on
14 issues that were not relative to startup at that time;
15 however, they never said, do not write PERs that are
16 non-fuel related; those issues, to the best of your
17 knowledge continued to come in but were just prioritized and
18 addressed at a later time.

19 A That's correct.

20 Q And no one -- to your knowledge, did you feel
21 comfortable if you had seen something that was non-fuel
22 related to write a PER?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q And do you recall ever writing -- during that time
25 period or after that meeting writing a PER on a

1 non-fuel-related issue?

2 A Myself?

3 Q Yes.

4 A No, sir.

5 Q Okay. However, you did have a chance to, in your
6 position that you were working at the time, to review PERs
7 and prioritize those?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q And at that time, were you still receiving PERs
10 that were non-fuel-related issues?

11 A Receiving and reviewing the ones that had been
12 written previously.

13 Q So although you were prioritizing them, you were
14 still working on those at that time?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q Okay.

17 MR. WHITE: I don't have any further questions.

18 Do you have any questions for me, Paul?

19 THE INTERVIEWEE: No, sir.

20 MR. WHITE: Okay.

21 Ed, do you have any concerns?

22 MR. VIGLUICCI: No, I think the testimony is
23 clear.

24 MR. WHITE: Okay. At this time, we'll go ahead
25 and close the statement.

1 BY MR. WHITE:

2 Q Mr. Law, has there been any threats or promises
3 made to you in order to obtain this statement from you?

4 A No, sir.

5 Q Okay. Do you feel like you've given the statement
6 freely and voluntarily?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 MR. WHITE: Okay. This interview will be
9 concluded at 3:15 p.m.

10 [Whereupon, at 3:15 p.m., the interview
11 concluded.]

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CERTIFICATE

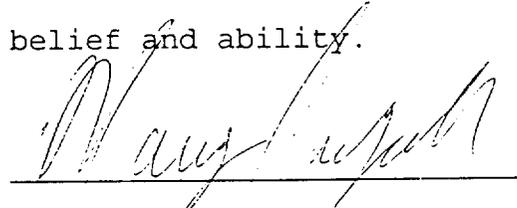
This is to certify that the attached proceedings before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the matter of:

Name of Proceeding: INTERVIEW OF
VERNON P. LAW
(CLOSED)

Docket Number:

Place of Proceeding: Watts Barr Nuclear Power Plant

were held as herein appears, and that this is the original transcript thereof for the file of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission transcribed by me from recorded tapes provided by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and that the transcript is a true and accurate record of the foregoing proceedings to the best of my belief and ability.



Mary Carpenter

Transcriber

Ann Riley & Associates, Ltd.