

# EXHIBIT 9

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EXHIBIT 9

Case No. 2-1998-023

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Act, exemption 7C  
FOIA- 2004-0012

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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In the Matter of:           :  
INTERVIEW OF               :  
VONDA SISSON               :  
(CLOSED)                   :  
----- X

Tennessee Valley Authority  
Headquarters  
1101 Market Street  
Chattanooga, TN  
Tuesday, March 23, 1999

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

BEFORE:

GARY CLAXTON, Investigator  
DARRELL WHITE, Investigator

APPEARANCES:

On behalf of the Witness and TVA:

Thomas F. Fine, Esquire  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
400 West Summit Hill Drive  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

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(202) 842-0034

EXHIBIT 9  
PAGE 1 OF 57 PAGE(S)

C O N T E N T S

WITNESS EXAMINATION

VONDA SISSON

BY MR. CLAXTON AND MR. WHITE 4

E X H I B I T S

NUMBER IDENTIFIED

[NONE.]

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## P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 MR. CLAXTON: For the record, today's date is  
3 March 23rd, 1999. This is an interview of Vonda Sisson.  
4 The interview is being conducted at the Tennessee Valley  
5 Authority headquarters located at 1101 Market Place,  
6 Chattanooga, Tennessee. My name is Gary Claxton. I'm a  
7 Special Agent with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office  
8 of Investigation, Region Two in Atlanta, Georgia.

9 Also present is Special Agent Darrell White, also of  
10 the NRC Office of Investigations. Also present is Mr. Tom  
11 Fine, and Mr. Fine, I'll allow you to introduce yourself now  
12 and give your purpose for being here.

13 MR. FINE: Thank you. I'm Thomas Fine. I'm an  
14 Assistant General Counsel in the Office of the General  
15 Counsel with the Tennessee Valley Authority, and I'm here to  
16 represent Vonda Sisson and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

17 MR. CLAXTON: Ms. Sisson, are you aware that Mr.  
18 Fine is an attorney for your employer, the TVA?

19 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I am.

20 MR. CLAXTON: And are you aware that anything  
21 that's discussed here can be shared with your employer?

22 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

23 MR. CLAXTON: And do you give him permission to  
24 be here with you today?

25 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I do.

1 MR. CLAXTON: Do you also understand that you can  
2 provide confidential information to the NRC at any time  
3 without anyone else being present?

4 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I do.

5 MR. CLAXTON: Do you have any objections to  
6 providing the information under oath?

7 THE INTERVIEWEE: No.

8 MR. CLAXTON: Would you raise your right hand,  
9 please?

10 Whereupon,

11 VONDA SISSON,

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

14 DIRECT EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. CLAXTON:

16 Q Would you give me your full name, please?

17 A It's Vonda Lee Sisson.

18 Q And for the benefit of the reporter, any time you  
19 give a proper name or an acronym, if you would spell that  
20 for us?

21 A Okay.

22 Q Both of us, I would appreciate it.

23 A Sorry. Vonda, V-o-n-d-a, middle name is Lee, L-  
24 e-e, last name is Sisson, S-i-s-s-o-n.

25 Q Where do you reside, Ms. Sisson?

1 A Chattanooga.

2 Q Okay. Do you mind providing your home address  
3 and telephone number?

4 A No. ( [REDACTED] ) 7c  
5 [REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED]

7 Q And are you presently employed by the TVA?

8 A Yes, I am.

9 Q And what's your occupation?

10 A I'm metallurgical engineer at Sequoyah Nuclear  
11 Plant.

12 Q And how long have you been employed at Sequoyah?

13 A Year and a half approximately.

14 Q And prior to being a metallurgical engineer at  
15 Sequoyah, what did you do? And if you don't mind, if you'll  
16 just back up and give us a brief history of your employment,  
17 I would appreciate that.

18 A Okay. I was a metallurgical engineer at Watts  
19 Bar from August 8th of '88 up until October 22nd, I believe  
20 it was I went to Sequoyah, of -- year and a half ago. What  
21 was it, '97? And I was at Sequoyah -- I got hired into  
22 Sequoyah in January 11th of '88, and I was at Sequoyah until  
23 August 8th of '88.

24 Q Okay. And prior to that time, what did you do?

25 A I worked outside of nuclear, outside of the

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1 field. I worked at a company that sold equipment for  
2 factories, lathes, things of that nature. It was a  
3 technical nature. It was technical writer. I established a  
4 telecommunications room for them, marketing department.  
5 That's pretty much it.

6 Q Were you involved in metallurgy at that time?

7 A No.

8 Q I'm sorry I interrupted you.

9 A I had my degree but it took a while to find a job  
10 in the field.

11 Q Okay. What is your degree in?

12 A Metallurgical engineering. I have an associates  
13 in material science also.

14 Q When and where did you receive your degrees?

15 A I received my metallurgical engineering degree at  
16 the University of Alabama. I graduated in [REDACTED] I  
17 got my associates in Buffalo, New York at the SUNY School.  
18 I believe I left there in [REDACTED]

19 Q SUNY, is that State University of New York?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Acronym is S-U-N-Y?

22 A Right.

23 Q Now, before the interview began we talked a  
24 little bit about the purpose of what we were going to talk  
25 about today. And essentially that involves some

1 metallurgical evaluations or examinations that the Central  
2 Labs conducted here at TVA on some screws that were taken  
3 from Watts Bar Nuclear Plant. Do you remember that  
4 situation?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And what was your occupation at the time or what  
7 were you doing?

8 A I was metallurgical engineer at Watts Bar.

9 Q And what does that involve basically?

10 A We had all the corrosion programs. We maintained  
11 those. We did failure analysis. We tested things at the  
12 lab, whether it would be new products coming in for halogen  
13 levels, anything that failed, if they felt like they needed  
14 to have tested, we would transport, write out the lab  
15 sheets, things of that nature.

16 Q Did you have a lab at Watts Bar?

17 A No.

18 Q And the reason I was asking, you said we tested.  
19 Did you personally do some testing at Central Labs?

20 A No, we would take the pieces, look at them  
21 ourselves, determine whether or not we could really -- a lot  
22 of times you can't find anything out from the piece they  
23 bring you. I mean, it's so severely degraded or there isn't  
24 enough of the piece, or they've already damaged it, and we  
25 decide whether or not they can really, you know, it's worth

1 the money to send it to the lab. We write up the sheets,  
2 specify the testing we want done, get it to the lab, things  
3 of that nature.

4 Q Now, in 1995 approximately June of '95 did you  
5 receive some screws?

6 A Yes, from Curtis Overall.

7 Q Okay. And was there a request to be -- to have  
8 those screws evaluated?

9 A He brought them to me, said they came out of the  
10 melt out tank in the ice condenser and asked me what I  
11 thought, if it would be worth sending them to the lab. I  
12 said yeah, I think it would be, so I went through and  
13 selected a few that I thought were representative or would  
14 tell us the most, and sent those to the lab.

15 Q Now, when he asked you what you thought, can you  
16 help me out a little bit? What did you understand that he  
17 was looking for when he said what did you think?

18 A Well, there were a variety of screws. There were  
19 some whole screws. They had failed in several different  
20 manners. I think he just wanted to get a gut feeling on  
21 what I thought. He wanted to show them to someone.

22 Q As to why they had failed or why they were broken  
23 or why they were in the melt tank or --

24 A Right, and apparently that wasn't a normal mode  
25 of operation. He just did it to see what he would get when

1 they melted out the ice.

2 Q Okay. When you say it's not a normal mode of  
3 operation --

4 A They wouldn't normally put a screen over the melt  
5 out tank.

6 Q I see. And if I understand you, you're saying  
7 they did put a screen over the melt out tank and found a  
8 number of screws.

9 A Curtis did, yes.

10 Q And he brought these screws to you.

11 A Right.

12 Q What did you do with the screws?

13 A I selected several that I thought were indicative  
14 of the failure mode would tell us the most, and prepare the  
15 lab sheet and transported them to the lab.

16 Q What did you do with the screws that were not  
17 selected?

18 A Gave them back to Curtis.

19 Q Do you know what he did with them?

20 A No.

21 Q Do you know about how many screws that would have  
22 been?

23 A That I sent to the lab?

24 Q No, that -- I'm sorry, that you gave back to  
25 Curtis.

1 A No, there were 70 to 100 maybe. I don't know how  
2 many I gave back to him.

3 Q Okay. So did you personally transport the screws  
4 to the lab?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And who did you give them to?

7 A By the time we got out of work at Watts Bar the  
8 lab was closed. They have a blue metal box that's outside  
9 the door. We would put our pieces inside that box, let them  
10 know they were there, and then they'd pick them up in the  
11 mornings.

12 Q Did you talk to someone the next day and discuss  
13 the issue with --

14 A Well, usually we'll call them and tell them  
15 something is coming so they know it's there, and we often  
16 call the lab and talk to them afterwards, not necessarily  
17 every time. I don't remember if I did that time or not. We  
18 talked a lot to the lab over this whole issue through the  
19 whole duration. I don't remember if I called exactly the  
20 next day, if that's what you're asking.

21 Q Okay. And let's just take that question forward.  
22 Did you talk to anyone at the lab at any time during that  
23 examination period?

24 A Yes.

25 Q To --

1 A Darrell Smith.

2 Q -- to kind of further discuss the situation --

3 A Right.

4 Q -- or the circumstances?

5 A They tried to give us some preliminary  
6 information. Curtis had some areas that he wondered, could  
7 it have been thermal during the melt out, could it have been  
8 torquing, could it have been -- came up with this list of  
9 hypothesis, could it have beens. And I asked the lab, well,  
10 did you see any signs of this, did you see this, so I asked  
11 him things of that nature.

12 Q Now, you mentioned Darrell Smith's name. Did you  
13 talk with Darrell?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Exclusively, or did you talk to Ms. Frazier that  
16 you recall?

17 A During the preparation of the report it was  
18 probably just to Darrell, because he was doing the work.

19 Q Now, in regards to the screws that you  
20 transported to the lab, were some of these screws new and  
21 unused?

22 A I believe we sent two batches. I think we  
23 selected some from the screws that had failed, and then we  
24 sent a batch from the new screws, from the warehouse.

25 Q And just kind of refresh your memory and Mr.

1 Fine, we'll just use mine just for a second if that's all  
2 right, and then you don't have to pull yours out.

3 MR. FINE: Sure.

4 BY MR. CLAXTON:

5 Q Specifically Ms. Sisson, what we'll be talking  
6 about today are the Set B screws that were transported to  
7 the lab.

8 A Okay.

9 Q Do you remember that set as being the new unused  
10 screws?

11 A I knew there were screws sent from the warehouse.  
12 I don't remember that I took those myself. A lot of times  
13 if things are in the warehouse, because of traceability,  
14 they'll send them from the warehouse. I don't remember how  
15 those were transported but I do know we sent new screws.

16 Q Was there ever any discussion with Darrell Smith  
17 regarding the new screws and why they were there or any type  
18 discussions at all that you recall?

19 A Typically in the lab sheet it would have said  
20 these are new screws from the warehouse. Typically what  
21 would have been the ice condenser, things of that nature. I  
22 don't know that anything went beyond that. I don't  
23 remember.

24 Q And did Mr. Smith provide a report to you or did  
25 he complete a report?

1 A Yes.

2 Q And did you get those reports?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay. If you will, explain to me what the normal  
5 -- well, if you will explain to me how it worked in this  
6 case, when he produced a report, whether you picked it up.  
7 If you will just walk me through that, what your involvement  
8 was from the time Mr. Smith produced the report, what your  
9 involvement was.

10 A Okay. Produced the report? From the time he  
11 produced the report?

12 Q Right. In other words, did he call you and have  
13 you come pick it up, you know, just kind of how you handled  
14 it.

15 A And I don't remember in this issue. A lot of  
16 times if we need them immediately, they'll put them in the  
17 blue box and I'll pick them up on the way to work.

18 Q Them being the reports?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Okay.

21 A I'm sorry. If we have time to put them in our  
22 interoffice mail, we will. This issue was moving very fast,  
23 so chances are I picked them up out of the box. Whenever  
24 they send out reports, they'll typically send them to the  
25 people -- the person that requested them, the testing to be

1 done, which was myself.

2 Q Okay. So you're not sure -- what I hear, maybe a  
3 little bit about and it's really not important for our  
4 purposes right now --

5 A I might have picked them up. I don't remember.

6 Q But it did get back to you?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Because you had requested -- okay, thank you.  
9 And then what did you do with that report?

10 A I wrote the transmittal memo. And again, in the  
11 urgency of time, PERs typically have imposed time limits to  
12 have corrective actions done, root cause analysis, things of  
13 that nature. We'll typically write a transmittal memo,  
14 Terry Woods mandate, to say we looked at the report. I  
15 concurred with it. Again, that was out of time, urgency  
16 with time. So I could get it on to Curtis' group to go into  
17 his PER, and help him support, you know, the time frames  
18 involved with PERs.

19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 Q [REDACTED]

24 A [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Q All right. We'll get to that letter in just a minute, but if you could explain to me what your organizational relationship is to Terry Woods.

A Terry Woods is in the corporate office. He has oversight responsibilities for corrosion issues, anything involved with metallurgical, welding, things of that nature. I have no direct relationship to him as far as management chain. My direct manage supervisor at that time was David Briggs. We worked for Frank Koontz, who was the lead of mechanical nuclear at the time.

Q Okay. And I think you just told me that you had reviewed the -- or that you had reviewed a letter, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

A [REDACTED]

Q Let's see if I can put my hands on that and we will -- off the record.

[Discussion off the record.]

MR. CLAXTON: We were off the record briefly to locate a document. We're back on the record now with the same parties present.

BY MR. CLAXTON:

Q [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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1 had?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Do you have a date on yours or do you have a RIMS  
4 number there?

5 A No. Typically the date would be reflected in the  
6 RIMS number, and normally these types of documents would  
7 have been RIMS'd. I don't know how this one was not.

8 Again, let me say we were moving very fast. ( [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

12 Q [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED]

14 A [REDACTED]

15 Q [REDACTED]

16 A [REDACTED] a.

17 [REDACTED] a

18 [REDACTED] )

19 Q Okay. And is this the normal course of events?  
20 I think you said you were required or Mr. Woods --

21 A Right, that's correct.

22 Q -- required a summary memo acknowledging that you  
23 had read the report?

24 A Right.

25 Q And is that basically what we're looking at here?

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1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. Do you know if this memo was ever sent out  
3 to anyone? Was it issued to anyone?

4 A I don't know. Again, it would have been RIMS'd  
5 typically before it was sent out. Normally the person that  
6 goes to the name is underlined with a little curly-q. As  
7 you -- and in red. And this name -- it just looks like a  
8 hand drawn line. Normally it's a ruler with a little  
9 curley-q at the end.

10 Q Mm-hmm.

11 A I don't know. I can't tell.

12 Q And the person that you're talking about that it  
13 would have gone to is L. L. McCormick or Landy McCormick?

14 A Landy McCormick, that's correct.

15 Q Now, from reading this memo can you tell whether  
16 it would have been a cover sheet for the first or second  
17 report?

18 A I believe it would have been for the first report  
19 because of some of the statements in the last two  
20 paragraphs. When it talked about overload stress that could  
21 have occurred during torquing, weighing the baskets, et  
22 cetera.

23 Q The next to the last paragraph?

24 A Right.

25 Q Now, the next sentence after that phrase you just

1 read begins by saying site engineering concurs with this  
2 conclusion. Can you explain that a little bit, what that  
3 means when you say site engineering? Were you speaking for  
4 --

5 A Pretty much would have been myself and anyone  
6 signed it after me. Mechanical nuclear, that's where the  
7 materials group falls out. And again, in essence of time,  
8 it looks to me that I took direct statements out of the  
9 report and concurred with it, so I could send it on and  
10 transmit it.

11 Q Mm-hmm. Now, do you recall reading the report or  
12 going over it critically?

13 A When I initially got it?

14 Q Mm-hmm. Well, let me -- in order to write this  
15 memo, do you recall going over like reviewing the  
16 conclusions or did you discuss it with --

17 A I reviewed it. I wouldn't probably have looked  
18 at it word for word. Just again in the essence of time. We  
19 were trying to get ready to load the fuels, things were  
20 moving very fast. And Curtis needed it for his PER.

21 Q Do you recall discussing the conclusions with  
22 Darrell Smith?

23 A At that time?

24 Q Uh-huh.

25 A No, I don't.

1 Q For the purposes of the interview, unless I say  
2 so, let's talk about that June, 1995, time frame when you  
3 received the report.

4 A Okay.

5 Q I appreciate you clarifying my questions.

6 A And this is before Terry Woods called to report  
7 back.

8 Q Right. And I'm sorry, I didn't hear your answer.  
9 Did you discuss the conclusions with Darrell Smith?

10 A I don't recall doing that.

11 Q Or Delsa Frazier?

12 A I don't remember that either.

13 Q Do you recall discussing the conclusions with  
14 anyone in order to write this memo?

15 A No.

16 Q Do you recall the conclusions in the first report  
17 that referred to the Set B screws or the new screws? Did  
18 that stand out at all, and specifically on the second page  
19 where the conclusions were stated, conclusion number six,  
20 states that the presence of quench cracks in the screws upon  
21 receipt from the manufacturer, and let me -- I'll point that  
22 conclusion out to you and then I'll ask a question. Did  
23 that conclusion stand out at all or did that appear  
24 significant that there may --

25 A I would have expected something to be said about

1 the new screws, if they had been sent to the lab. It makes  
2 me wonder what the "and" is at the end of that statement.  
3 It's like something else needed -- they wanted to put  
4 something else there.

5 Q Okay. That may have been style. It looks like  
6 it listed one through six, and number seven. I guess that's  
7 the way I would have read it.

8 A Okay. I guess I looked for some more words after  
9 the "and".

10 Q What's the significance of quench cracks that are  
11 received from the manufacturer?

12 A It would depend on the severity of them. It  
13 would depend on the hardnesses across the whole screw. You  
14 have a tougher core, it's not going to be as significant.  
15 It would be initiation site for further cracking  
16 potentially.

17 Q Okay. Now, this report on June 2nd stated that  
18 the screws probably failed due to a combination of several  
19 factors, and that's one of the factors that's listed is a  
20 presence of quench cracks. In layman's terms would that be  
21 a manufacturing defect?

22 A Quench cracks would be from the manufacturer,  
23 yes.

24 Q Upon receipt from the manufacturer.

25 A But he also has a probably failed statement prior

1 to all of these. A lot of these assumptions or conclusions  
2 were things that Curtis asked about.

3 Q I'm just trying to understand the process from  
4 the time you received the report, the time you wrote the  
5 memo and you know, whether or not you considered these seven  
6 factors in the memo that you wrote.

7 A Again, in essence of time and the urgency of the  
8 issue, I would have written a very brief transmittal memo  
9 saying I concurred with it, just to move it on, so it could  
10 go on to Curtis and we could do, you know, get the ball  
11 rolling on the PER.

12 ( Q [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED] )

18 Q So the memo which says you concur with the  
19 findings, does that include all seven of the conclusions  
20 since you didn't take exception in the memo --

21 A No, I believe I listed three things that could  
22 have been a reason for overstressing, I believe it was,  
23 overload, the overloading stress could have occurred during  
24 torquing, weighing of baskets, or from the weight of the ice  
25 baskets themselves.

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12 7c

1 Q Now, how does intergranular separation figure in?  
2 How does that relate to the seven conclusions? The very  
3 first sentence in that next to the last paragraph, says the  
4 mode of failure was stated as intergranular separation?

5 A Well, intergranular separation, your grains  
6 separate. And again, this list here, a lot of these items  
7 that came from this list were items that Curtis asked about  
8 out of the seven items. Thermal cycling, corrosive  
9 environment. He asked about torquing.

10 Q Now, my question is intergranular separation. Is  
11 that related in any way to quench cracks?

12 A No. No. That's an intrinsic property of the  
13 material.

14 Q Okay. Maybe a better way to do this is I'm  
15 having trouble matching up your letter to the report. It  
16 says the mode of failure was stated as intergranular  
17 separation. Was that one of the seven conclusions?

18 A I believe it was stated in text above the  
19 conclusions. I haven't looked at this report in a couple  
20 years, so --

21 Q I understand that. And the failure mechanism was  
22 stress overload, would that have been conclusion number two?

23 A No, there's a statement, one sentence beneath  
24 those seven items that says the mode of failure in the  
25 screws was intergranular separation and the mechanism was

1 stress overload.

2 Q All right. And then the seven conclusions are  
3 listed as a probable cause of failure?

4 A Right.

5 Q Okay. When or after you received the first  
6 report, what did you do with it?

7 A I transmitted it. I sent Curtis a copy -- I  
8 believe I sent Curtis two copies. He wanted one to send to  
9 Duke Engineering or members -- he was on a team from various  
10 utilities, ice condenser group, and he sent one I believe to  
11 Duke. I sent him at least one other. Typically we'll keep  
12 them in our area until someone comes and needs them for some  
13 other reason. If they came and asked one for Westinghouse,  
14 we'd give it to Westinghouse. I don't remember who all got  
15 copies of them.

16 Q And did you receive a request shortly thereafter  
17 regarding the first report to return --

18 A To call it back? Yes.

19 Q Yes. What were the circumstances surrounding  
20 that request?

21 A Terry Woods had reviewed the report, felt like  
22 there were items in it that couldn't be verified with  
23 testing, and felt like the report needed to be called back.

24 Q Did you transmit a copy to Mr. Woods?

25 A I don't recall sending him one myself. He may

1 have gotten one from the lab. I don't know.

2 Q So my question is do you know how --

3 A No.

4 Q -- or why he had a copy of that report?

5 A When there are large material issues within TVA,  
6 someone from Terry's group will typically get involved.  
7 Whether we ask them to help us, if he feels like it's an  
8 issue they need to be involved with for oversight, they get  
9 involved. I don't know how he determines what he needs to  
10 be involved with, other than the site asking for his help.

11 Q Did he call you at your office, do you recall or  
12 -- I mean, was there anything unusual about the call, the  
13 time of day or did he call you at home or --

14 A No.

15 Q Do you recall that it was just routine?

16 A He called me in the office.

17 Q Is it unusual that Mr. Woods would call you to  
18 discuss a report with you?

19 A No.

20 Q And do you recall specifically what concerns he  
21 had or what questions he had?

22 A It was pretty much things like where it says  
23 probables. If things couldn't be verified by testing, he  
24 had concerns about those statements, and I don't know  
25 exactly right now exactly what they are in the report. I

1 believe that he had voiced a concern to me. I know Delsa  
2 called me and asked me to retrieve all the reports because  
3 it's part of their QA program.

4 Q Okay. Was that before or after Mr. Woods called  
5 you?

6 A It would have been after, I would assume. I  
7 don't remember.

8 Q Okay. And what did you do as a result of --

9 A Well, I tried to gather them back up. I don't  
10 remember how many she sent me. It's showing four. I tried  
11 to retrieve them and send them back to her.

12 Q Do you recall how many copies you were able to  
13 locate?

14 A It seems like I was one short because he had sent  
15 one to Duke Engineering or something of that nature.

16 Q He being Mr. Overall?

17 A Overall, yes.

18 Q Did you discuss that with him or did you ask him  
19 about --

20 A Well, he said he had already sent it on, so he  
21 doubted he'd be able to retrieve it, so --

22 Q Okay. Did you report that to Mr. Woods?

23 A I reported that to Delsa.

24 Q Oh, Delsa, okay. Were there any further  
25 conversations about that one copy that couldn't be

1 retrieved?

2 A Not that I recall.

3 Q And I think you said Delsa told you that she  
4 needed the reports back for their quality program?

5 A Their QA program as far as RIMS go and things of  
6 that nature.

7 Q What did you understand that to mean?

8 A Just that she needed them all back. I don't  
9 know. I don't get involved in that part of that process.  
10 If she told me she needed them all back, I'd try to get them  
11 all back.

12 Q Did she give you any reasons other than just --

13 A Just that they were going to call the report  
14 back.

15 Q Did she tell you that they intended to revise it  
16 or that there were problems?

17 A I believe I knew that they were going to try and  
18 revise it. I think based on Terry's conversation with me.  
19 I don't remember exactly. So much went on at that time, and  
20 it's been so long, it just kind of runs together but --

21 Q I understand. What happened after you received  
22 the call from Ms. Frazier and you returned the reports?  
23 What was your next involvement with this particular issue?

24 A We met at the lab to go over the report line by  
25 line, and that was Terry Woods, Robert Phillips, myself,

1 Darrell Smith, Leslie Blankenship and Delsa was in and out  
2 of that meeting.

3 Q And this was at the labs --

4 A Central Lab.

5 Q And that's located where?

6 A By the dam, Chickamauga Dam.

7 Q Okay. Was Mr. Woods in charge of that meeting?

8 A Well, he certainly made the statement in the  
9 beginning why we were there. It was a common, you know,  
10 common, everyone was on common ground around the table. If  
11 you noted something that you felt concern with, you'd state  
12 it and then it was discussed. It was that type of meeting.

13 Q So you actually took the first report and those  
14 that you named just kind of sat around and evaluated it for  
15 what, objectivity?

16 A Like I said, if you could verify that statement  
17 with the testing, reviewed the testing, things of that  
18 nature.

19 Q Do you recall any discussions about -- during  
20 that meeting do you recall any discussions about information  
21 on the Set B screws or the new screws?

22 A Not in particular, no.

23 Q Do you recall why that information was taken out?

24 A I didn't even realize it was taken out, to be  
25 honest with you, of the second report. There was reference

1 in text, I believe, in the second report, still to the fact  
2 that there were cracks. I don't think that was ever removed  
3 from the second report.

4 Q Now, how about the figure seven, the photograph  
5 of the new screw that had the crack, was that discussed at  
6 that meeting at the lab?

7 A I don't remember.

8 Q Do you recall the issue that figure seven was  
9 removed from the report and replaced with another  
10 photograph?

11 A That was not discussed. I don't remember that.

12 Q If you would, help me understand why this many  
13 people sat around to revise a report that had been written.  
14 I mean, is that normal? I'm thinking in what I would  
15 imagine would be maybe the supervisor and the author of the  
16 report and maybe Mr. Woods would sit down and work on it or  
17 they would ask --

18 A Well, it's for Watts Bar so I think he wanted a  
19 Watts Bar person there, a site person, and that's how I got  
20 pulled into the meeting. Robert Phillips works for Terry,  
21 so that is out of his organization. The rest of the people  
22 that were at the meeting were from the lab.

23 Q My question is, I'm curious as to why the  
24 supervisor and the author of the report may -- I understand  
25 Mr. Smith was relatively new.

1 A That's correct.

2 Q And why the two of them and maybe Mr. Woods --  
3 I'm just curious why that many people sat around and edited  
4 a report or revised a report. Is that unusual?

5 A Terry had some concerns about the lab putting  
6 statements in the reports that they could not verify, and  
7 this was just part of an ongoing process. We didn't  
8 necessarily sit around the table for every report but he  
9 often talked to the lab about the statements they were  
10 putting into the reports that they couldn't prove with data  
11 from their testing. And of course this was a fairly large  
12 issue, and I think that's why it warranted more people being  
13 involved.

14 Q In what way was it a large issue?

15 A We were trying to load fuel. We had a lot going  
16 out at Watts Bar. When you're in that mode of operation,  
17 this could be a potentially large issue, so it gets a lot of  
18 attention and a lot of support. He was trying to support  
19 the site so that we could load fuel.

20 Q Did -- and what I hear you saying is that there  
21 was a potential for -- you call it a large issue. It was an  
22 important issue.

23 A Well, I think any time you get -- the ice  
24 condenser is a large piece of equipment.

25 Q Physically large?

1 A Yes. Has safety issues involved with it.

2 Q Critically large or --

3 A Yes.

4 Q Or operationally large, I guess.

5 A Well, those things all play a role. I mean, you  
6 get safety related equipment. You're always going to put  
7 extra resources into something of that nature.

8 Q Okay. So that if there was something wrong with  
9 the screws generically, that had a lot of implications?

10 A It could, if there was something wrong.

11 Q Now, there was apparently another meeting on June  
12 14th that there was an attendance list taken, and I see your  
13 name at the bottom there. Do you recognize that as your  
14 printed name?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Do you remember that meeting?

17 A Everyone asks me about this particular meeting.  
18 We had a lot of meetings over this issue.

19 Q Well, it was an important issue apparently from  
20 what you just said, a large issue.

21 A And again, you know, we didn't want to delay fuel  
22 load, so they were putting a lot of resources onto it. Can  
23 you give me more information about this particular meeting?

24 Q Apparently it took place at the site at Watts  
25 Bar.

1 A Most of them did.

2 Q Okay. Let's see. There's one, two, three -- 13  
3 people had signed the attendance sheet, including James  
4 Adair, who I believe was the --

5 A Civil engineer.

6 Q Lead civil engineer.

7 A Yes.

8 Q And Terry Woods, who is the chief metallurgical  
9 engineer, so does that lend some importance to it, that at  
10 least those two people were there. I'm just trying to help  
11 you remember the purpose of that meeting with that many  
12 people and with  Mr. Adair there.

13 A After the testing was done, Westinghouse civil  
14 engineering -- the PER was ruled to civil engineering. And  
15 Westinghouse became involved and civil engineering and  
16 Westinghouse resolved the issue.

17 Q Okay. Do you know how they resolved the issue?

18 A Westinghouse prepared the document that's dated  
19 the number of screws they would need in each ring to  
20 maintain its functional capacity.

21 Q Did you see that or did you have any reason to  
22 see that report or did that come across your desk for any  
23 reason?

24 A I wasn't involved at that time. After the  
25 testing was done we backed out of the issue. Our part was

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1 done. I did ask civils to look at it just out of curiosity  
2 sake. I asked them to look at a drawing of the basket with  
3 the rings, and I was just curious to see how they were laid  
4 out but other than that I had no involvement with them.

5 Q Now, when you say you asked civils to look at it,  
6 what does that mean?

7 A I asked them if I could look at the drawing and  
8 it had ten rings or something of that nature and just to see  
9 where the screws fell out, how many they needed in each  
10 ring. Curiosity sake.

11 Q Do you know from your own personal knowledge  
12 whether or not Westinghouse used the results of the  
13 metallurgical lab to come up with their findings?

14 A I don't know.

15 Q So I think what I heard you saying was that  
16 Westinghouse produced a report which said how many or said  
17 the minimum number of screws that could be --

18 A Were required --

19 Q -- required in a ring?

20 A Yes. And the rings varied. They weren't all the  
21 same.

22 Q We were talking about the meeting on June 14th  
23 and maybe -- I'm trying to think if this was the meeting  
24 that maybe Mr. Overall brought some screws and rings and  
25 laid on the table. Does that --

1           A           He brought into a meeting part of a basket, where  
2 the rings had been ripped out of the top, and just to show  
3 how they were configured. I don't know that it was at that  
4 meeting. It may have been. I don't know.

5           MR. CLAXTON: Why don't we take a short break at  
6 9:37 a.m.

7           [Recess.]

8           MR. CLAXTON: We're back on the record at 9:49  
9 a.m with the same parties present and Ms. Sisson, I'll  
10 remind you that you are under oath for the information that  
11 you give us.

12 BY MR. CLAXTON:

13           Q           Just prior to the break we were talking about the  
14 information that was contained in the two reports on June  
15 2nd and June 19th that was issued from the Central Lab  
16 Services and one of my concerns that I'd like to talk about  
17 was the information regarding the Set B screws and I think I  
18 made a statement that I said something like it did not  
19 appear in the June 19th report, and you replied, and I'm not  
20 sure of the words, and we'll just ask the question again,  
21 something to the effect that information regarding Set B was  
22 in the June 19th report. Now, let me kind of go back and  
23 say all that again. The issue here is that there was a  
24 statement in the June 2nd report, at the bottom of the first  
25 page, the very last sentence, that similar cracks were

1 discovered in the new screw received in Set A, and in the  
2 transverse section of a new screw sample, examined from Set  
3 B, see Figure 7.

4 And flip over on the next page -- I'm sorry, I  
5 guess the actual sentence begins on the first page -- the  
6 acronym EDX, what does that stand for?

7 A It's a method of determining the elements,  
8 chemical elements in the material screw.

9 Q Do you know what the acronym EDX stands for right  
10 off?

11 A No.

12 Q Okay. Regardless, the sentence starts out, says,  
13 EDX analysis of the crack revealed the presence of zinc,  
14 indicating that the crack may have been present prior to  
15 plating, parentheses, possibly formed when quenched, during  
16 the manufacturer's heat treatment. Can you summarize that  
17 statement in layman's terms as to what that means?

18 A The EDX statement?

19 Q Yes.

20 A That's saying that possibly during manufacture  
21 when the piece was quenched, they had a requirement to have  
22 a harder surface treatment and a lower hardness value for  
23 the core of the screw, and when you do a heat treatment to  
24 give you the harder surface treatment, you'll quench,  
25 meaning submerge them in liquid. And it's saying there that

1 there were cracks. The cracks had the presence of zinc.  
2 These were coded with zinc, and it says that the cracks  
3 possibly were formed when they were quenched.

4 Q Now, from your recollection is there any  
5 indication of the extent of the cracking on the Set B screws  
6 or just the fact that a crack may have been present?

7 A Could you ask me that sentence again? I'm sorry.

8 Q In the metallurgical report that Mr. Smith  
9 produced on June 2nd, do you recall that he talked about the  
10 extent of possible cracking or just that he found --

11 A Are you talking about what's dated in this  
12 report?

13 Q Mm-hmm.

14 A No, it doesn't tell you the extent.

15 Q Does it raise the possibility or does it -- well,  
16 does it report that the crack may have been present during  
17 the manufacturing process?

18 A Yes, it does.

19 Q Now, you had mentioned something earlier that the  
20 information regarding Set B was in the latter report or the  
21 June 19th report. Were you referring to this type statement  
22 or --

23 A I believe that there was a statement saying that  
24 they had some cracks in the root threads on a set that they  
25 had removed or had been in service. They also noted some

1 cracks on the B screw, similar cracks, and I believe that  
2 type of statement was in the second report. That's what I  
3 was referring to.

4 Q If you could locate that or if we need to go off  
5 the record to give you time to review that report, if you  
6 could point that out to me, I'd appreciate it.

7 MR. CLAXTON: And just to save time for the  
8 reporter, why don't we go off the record at 9:54 to allow  
9 time to review the report.

10 [Discussion off the record.]

11 MR. CLAXTON: We're back on the record at 9:58  
12 a.m. with the same parties present. Once again, Ms. Sisson,  
13 I'll remind you that you are under oath for the information  
14 that you give.

15 BY MR. CLAXTON:

16 Q Before we went off the record my question to you  
17 was whether or not the information regarding Set B screws  
18 had been included in the second report and you were  
19 reviewing the second report.

20 A I thought there was a sentence in here that  
21 referenced the cracks in B, but I did not see it when I  
22 reviewed it.

23 Q Now, in that same -- those two sentences at the  
24 bottom of the first page and the top of the second page, it  
25 refers to Figure 7. It talks about --

1 A Is this the June 2nd report?

2 Q I'm sorry, yes, the June 2nd report. Thank you.  
3 The examination of the Set B screws and then it refers to  
4 Figure 7. Now, Figure 7 of that June 2nd report is  
5 something that I'm certainly not capable of interpreting.  
6 Can you tell me what that is and why it's there? I think  
7 the lower photograph or the lower figure, the caption under  
8 that illustration says, as polished, transverse view of  
9 crack present in a new screw that was received in Set B, and  
10 then it has 400X. Can you just tell me a little bit about  
11 that figure and what that caption indicates to you?

12 A Well, it's a cross section of a screw from Set B,  
13 and typically they're polished and etched to see your micro  
14 structures. This one looked like it's just polished. I  
15 don't see the grain structure. It demonstrates a crack.  
16 Magnification is 400X.

17 Q All right. Now, the way I understand that that  
18 figure of the Set B screw did not appear in this second  
19 report. Were you familiar with that or were you aware of  
20 that?

21 A I wasn't aware of that, no. I didn't I guess go  
22 back and look at every figure to see if they corresponded if  
23 they showed up in the second report.

24 Q Okay. Now, during the meeting at the Central Lab  
25 where Mr. Woods discussed this issue and you had the round

1 table discussion, was there a discussion about whether to  
2 take Figure 7 out?

3 A No. We did not discuss taking figures out at all  
4 that I recall.

5 Q Do you have any idea -- and since that time have  
6 you found out why Figure 7 was taken out?

7 A No.

8 Q Have you talked to Darrell about it?

9 A No.

10 Q Or Delsa?

11 A No.

12 Q Now, in the meeting at the Central Labs with Mr.  
13 Woods and the other people where you reviewed the report of  
14 June 2nd, do you recall talking about removing the  
15 information at the bottom of Page 1 regarding Set B?

16 A No.

17 Q Do you know why it was removed?

18 A No.

19 Q Is it significant that it was removed in your  
20 opinion as a metallurgist?

21 A I think that it's information that should have  
22 been documented in the second report.

23 Q Well, the question is is it significant, as a  
24 metallurgist do you consider it significant that information  
25 regarding the new screw was left out?

1 A Well, again, I think it was information that  
2 needed to be there. Significant in what manner?

3 Q Are you familiar with Appendix B, Criterion 16,  
4 Appendix B issues regarding possible defects that 10 CFR --  
5 are you familiar with 10 CRR --

6 A The Part 21 issue or --

7 Q Well, that too. Are you familiar with Part 21  
8 issues?

9 A I've seen a couple of them.

10 Q Have you ever dealt with a Part 21 issue?

11 A No.

12 MR. WHITE: Darrell, did you have something?

13 BY MR. WHITE:

14 Q Would the removal of either Figure 7 or the  
15 discussion of Set B have to be authorized by anyone? Who  
16 would have authorized the removal?

17 A The only thing I can say about that is you have a  
18 preparer and an approved by at the lab. That's where I  
19 would think that it would have fallen out.

20 Q [REDACTED]  
21 [REDACTED]  
22 [REDACTED]  
23 [REDACTED]  
24 [REDACTED]

25 A [REDACTED]

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1 without him being aware of it.

2 Q Okay.

3 A He wouldn't be part of that approval cycle.

4 Q I didn't know -- I know you -- he didn't have  
5 chain of command over that, but however, he did have a need  
6 to be --

7 A An oversight role, yes.

8 Q -- an oversight of that, so I didn't know how he  
9 would fit in in the approval chain.

10 A He wouldn't be involved in that approval chain at  
11 all.

12 Q So it would be Central Labs?

13 A That's correct.

14 Q Okay.

15 BY MR. CLAXTON:

16 Q I think I failed to ask you a while ago whether  
17 Mr. Woods received a copy of the second report.

18 A I'm sure he did. I would think that he would  
19 have pursued that on his own. I don't know. I can't verify  
20 that, but I would assume that he did. I would have followed  
21 up, I guess, if I had concerns with the first one, and if I  
22 were in his position, I would have followed up with the  
23 second --

24 Q But according to your personal knowledge did you  
25 deliver a copy to him or did you forward a copy --

1           A        Again, I wouldn't have typically forwarded it to  
2 him. It would have been to people on site.

3                   BY MR. WHITE:

4           Q        You had mentioned that Mr. Woods had some concern  
5 about reports that were coming out of Central Labs that  
6 maybe the -- I don't want to use inaccuracies, but the --

7           A        Assumptions.

8           Q        -- assumptions coming out of Central Lab, who  
9 would have been his -- on his level, who would he have been  
10 taking that concern to?

11          A        I would think that he would not have gone to the  
12 director of the lab per se initially. I would think that he  
13 would have gone to the manager over the metallurgical group.

14          Q        Who would that have been?

15          A        At that time? I believe it was Joe Pleva.

16          Q        I guess I'm -- Mr. Woods wouldn't go directly to  
17 like Darrell and have a --

18          A        I don't think he would go to Darrell. They have  
19 the two C4 engineers broke out, one to fossil and hydro and  
20 one to nuclear. And Delsa has been delegated to nuclear for  
21 quite some time. I don't know that she was at this  
22 particular time, but she has been for quite some time. He  
23 may have gone to Delsa.

24                   MR. WHITE: Thank you.

25                   BY MR. CLAXTON:

1 Q You talked earlier about the timeliness of the  
2 PER or the PER and the need to get that closed out, and I  
3 think you said all of that was related to fuel loading.

4 A That's correct.

5 Q Do you know approximately what the time period  
6 was there prior to fuel loading? Here we're talking about  
7 June of '95, and I'm sorry I personally don't know and I --

8

9 A I don't remember.

10 Q But it was an issue that -- you being TVA, TVA  
11 needed to get the PER resolved?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q So the fuel loading could proceed.

14 A And intrinsically in the PER process you have X  
15 number of days to do certain things.

16 Q Okay.

17 A And that would have driven it as well.

18 Q Who typically would have pursued the issue of  
19 manufacturing defects, if report number one had prevailed  
20 and the issue concerning manufacturing defects remained in  
21 there, who would have owned that? Who would have gone  
22 forward with it?

23 A At the site as far as pursuing it, is that what  
24 you're asking?

25 Q The big question is out there and you know, it's

1 not a trick question, believe me. I mean, if that was  
2 evident in the report and that report was handed to you and  
3 you hand the report to someone else, who would have been  
4 responsible --

5 A I believe it would have eventually rolled to  
6 Westinghouse, because they provided the screws, so I'm sure  
7 the question would have gone to Westinghouse. I don't know  
8 who would have gotten it there but that's the direction it  
9 would have gone.

10 Q Someone would have been responsible for getting  
11 that report to Westinghouse; is that correct?

12 A I would think that would be the case. Of course,  
13 they got tied into the whole issue anyway. They may have  
14 seen the report. I don't know.

15 Q So the issue would be whether they considered  
16 that report or not. In other words, they would have to have  
17 received that information --

18 A I would think so --

19 Q From the --

20 A I would think so. I personally did not give it  
21 to them that I recall.

22 Q Okay. Did you see -- I see you're not on the  
23 copy here for a memo from Mr. Woods to Mr. Maddox regarding  
24 the reconciliation report as to why the two reports were  
25 different?

1           A       To be honest with you, Terry mentioned that to me  
2 just recently. I didn't know he had done one.

3           Q       Mm-hmm.

4           A       So I had not seen it.

5           Q       Did you discuss with Mr. Woods reconciliation and  
6 the difference between the two reports?

7           A       In this report?

8           Q       Yes.

9           A       I wasn't tied into this so I really don't know.

10          Q       All right. One point in the reconciliation  
11 report, I can -- there was a statement that interviews of  
12 lab personnel determined that the omission of the  
13 information about Set B was inadvertent. Were you  
14 interviewed regarding that, regarding the omission of that  
15 information?

16          A       Mm-mm. Like I said, I didn't know they were  
17 doing this reconciliation.

18          Q       Yes, okay. Since you weren't interviewed I guess  
19 it's immaterial, but on the reconciliation report dated  
20 October 20th, 1998, there's a statement that subsequent  
21 interview of Central Lab personnel interviewed in this  
22 effort -- I'm sorry, based on the information provided in  
23 this memorandum, and subsequent interview of Central Lab  
24 personnel involved in this effort, the data pertaining to  
25 cracking in the new screw was inadvertently omitted from the

1 second report. And I think what you just told me was that  
2 you were not interviewed --

3 A That's correct.

4 Q -- regarding -- okay. But you at least  
5 organizationally were responsible for reviewing the report  
6 and concurring with it or approving it by site engineering?

7 A The second report?

8 Q Well, I think you did issue the memo signed by  
9 Mr. Koontz saying that site engineering --

10 A The first report.

11 Q -- concurred with the first report. Did you --  
12 and I may have asked this question and I apologize if I'm  
13 duplicating myself. Would you have written a similar memo  
14 for the second report?

15 A I didn't remember writing the first one. I did  
16 call Watts Bar to ask them to look. I kept a set of lab  
17 books from 1988 on, and I asked them to look and see if I  
18 had a transmittal memo in there and it was not in there.  
19 Normally I would keep those in with the lab book reports. I  
20 don't remember.

21 Q Okay. I'm sorry, you said there was not a  
22 transmittal and who did you make that inquiry of?

23 A Sharon Gray. She took over my position at Watts  
24 Bar when I left, and I asked her to look in the lab book and  
25 see if there was one there, and there was not a copy of the

1 transmittal memo.

2 MR. FINE: I'm sorry, I apologize for  
3 interjecting, but I think -- I thought you were asking if  
4 there was a transmittal memo for the second report.

5 THE INTERVIEWEE: He did and I didn't remember  
6 writing the first one. I don't remember writing -- I don't  
7 remember that I wrote one.

8 BY MR. CLAXTON:

9 Q And I understood you to say that you checked with  
10 your --

11 A And I didn't see any evidence of one --

12 Q -- replacement to see if there was a transmittal  
13 memo --

14 A Right.

15 Q And that was Sharon Gray?

16 A Right.

17 Q And you refer to it as a lab book?

18 A There are several volumes, and I put all the lab  
19 reports that we've done since 1988 in those volumes and  
20 indexed them, just so we would have good records at Watts  
21 Bar.

22 BY MR. WHITE:

23 Q Was the first transmittal record, it did show up  
24 in there? It did not? So it might or might not have been  
25 unusual?

1           A       Well, that could be -- like I say, it was a very  
2 hectic time.

3           MR. CLAXTON: Mr. Fine, on the record if we could  
4 make a request to check the June 19th report through RIMS.  
5 If we have the RIMS number here --

6 BY MR. CLAXTON:

7           Q       Would the transmittal memo normally have a  
8 separate RIMS?

9           A       Normally that's what we would do. I tried to do  
10 a RIMS search myself and I could not find anything for  
11 either of them as far as a transmittal memo.

12          Q       Okay.

13          MR. FINE: We've already done that.

14          MR. CLAXTON: Okay.

15          MR. FINE: We had the same thought you did and  
16 came up empty.

17          MR. CLAXTON: Okay. Do you have anything,  
18 Darrell? Why don't we take a short break just to kind of  
19 review what we've gone through.

20          MR. FINE: Sure.

21          MR. CLAXTON: And see if there's anything we need  
22 to cover. We'll break at 10:15.

23          [Recess.]

24          MR. CLAXTON: The time is now 10:25. We're back  
25 on the record after a break with the same parties present.

1 Ms. Sisson, I'll remind you that you are under oath for the  
2 information that you give us.

3 BY MR. CLAXTON:

4 Q We talked earlier about the significance of a Set  
5 B screws, the new screws and whether or not it was  
6 significant that one of the screws was found to have a crack  
7 in it, and I think you said that it could be depending on  
8 other circumstances. I think I also asked the question of  
9 whether it was significant that information was left out of  
10 the second report, and you said that was information that  
11 should have been included in the second report. I read you  
12 a statement in the reconciliation report apparently from Mr.  
13 Woods where he said that he had interviewed lab personnel  
14 and that it was determined that the omission of the  
15 information was inadvertent, and I think did you tell me  
16 that -- let me ask you again, were you interviewed by Mr.  
17 Woods regarding that issue?

18 A No, I was not.

19 Q Do you have any supervision over the Central Labs  
20 Services?

21 A No.

22 Q Is that by more or less a lateral relationship  
23 that they provide services to you upon request?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q You told me earlier that you were a degreed

1 metallurgist.

2 A That's correct.

3 Q And that Darrell Smith, you may know this on your  
4 own, but -- or do you know on your own that he is a degreed  
5 metallurgist?

6 A That's correct.

7 Q In a report where information of this type is  
8 omitted, would that be acceptable lab practice? Is that  
9 normal or have you seen an experience where information has  
10 been omitted?

11 A No.

12 Q Would that be somewhat unusual that information  
13 of that significance would be omitted?

14 A Yes, I have not noticed there to be a trend of  
15 that nature.

16 Q In your experience?

17 A That's right.

18 Q By virtue of you being a scientist, I would guess  
19 you'd have to be hopefully precise in the information that  
20 you report, how you report it? You're nodding your head.

21 A Yes. I'm sorry, yes. I thought more was coming.

22 Q No. That's part of my nature. I'm sorry. What  
23 I'm getting at, Ms. Sisson, is the responsibility for Mr.  
24 Smith in your opinion in reporting this information to make  
25 sure that all of the information he reported initially is in

1 the second report, unless it was specifically edited out.

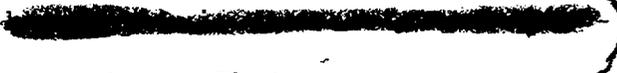
2 Is that correct?

3 A That would have been the responsibility of the  
4 lab, if that's what you're asking.

5 Q Right.

6 A Okay.

7 Q The lab being the author, Mr. Darrell Smith, 

8  )

9 A That's correct.

10 Q -- who signed off on the report. So as an  
11 investigator can I assume that either that information was  
12 deliberately deleted out by someone at the meeting that you  
13 described or it was omitted by the author?

14 A Inadvertently, as it states in the reconciliation  
15 report, yes.

16 Q Now, can you state unequivocally that that  
17 information -- let me ask you, was that information  
18 discussed at that meeting at the Central Labs when Mr. Woods  
19 was there?

20 A We went through the report line by line. I do  
21 not recall that a statement was made that we do not need  
22 this in the second report.

23 Q Do you understand how that perplexes me, when you  
24 say you went through it line by line and it was not deleted  
25 but yet it didn't make it in there?

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1           A        Maybe it wasn't inadvertently left out. I don't  
2 know. I do not recall us saying, you know, this really  
3 doesn't need to be in here.

4           Q        And my concern, my question to you is -- I'm  
5 trying to find out exactly what happened that day. I want  
6 to be as precise -- I want to make sure you understand my  
7 questions and understand the issue, and that's why I'm kind  
8 of going over and over this question to make sure that your  
9 recollection is clear on what happened that day, and I hear  
10 you saying that that was not discussed at all even though  
11 you went over the report line by line.

12          A        I said I did not recall us saying it didn't need  
13 to be in the second report.

14          Q        Okay. So -- and I'll tell you and I have the  
15 transcript here, Mr. Woods was talking in his -- in an  
16 earlier deposition that during that meeting the report was  
17 discussed and that there was -- I think he said there was no  
18 specific opposition, but he said that the group came to an  
19 agreement on the report and what was to be put in there.

20          A        And it's true, we read through the statements,  
21 threw them out on the table. We discussed them. That's  
22 pretty much what I said before.

23                   BY MR. WHITE:

24          Q        I guess the question would be was it your opinion  
25 then when you left that meeting that the Set B screws would

1 still be incorporated in the next report?

2 A I don't remember saying that specifically but I  
3 do not remember the statement coming up and saying well, we  
4 don't need this in the second report, so --

5 BY MR. CLAXTON:

6 Q And obviously the purpose for our pursuing this  
7 as minutely as we can is the fact that if these screws -- if  
8 these Set B screws, the new screws had been reported as  
9 having a possible manufacturing defect, it very likely would  
10 have caused some delay in the fuel loading, because it would  
11 have caused an additional -- a second look at just what's  
12 going on here.

13 A They would have been addressed.

14 Q But that information never made it outside the  
15 lab. There is -- it is questionable as to whether  
16 Westinghouse got that information.

17 A I don't know.

18 Q And that's not the question -- that's kind of a  
19 statement to you. I'm just trying to help you to understand  
20 where we're coming from, and trying to find out why that  
21 information was deleted from the second report.

22 Now, does Mr. Smith have to take responsibility  
23 for this, you know, someone who has only had a year's  
24 experience and I hear what you're saying about no reference  
25 to that issue at that meeting. I just want you to

1 understand the exact nature of what we're trying to  
2 determine and that's why that information was removed from  
3 the second report. I think you told me earlier that that  
4 could have been significant information that a new screw had  
5 cracks in it.

6 A It would have had to have been addressed.

7 Q Right. And that's exactly what we're trying to  
8 get at is why that information was not addressed, because  
9 the information was there and it was -- and then it wasn't  
10 there, so to speak.

11 A Right.

12 Q Do you have any questions or anything you'd like  
13 to add to the information?

14 A No.

15 Q Do you understand the issue that we're trying to  
16 arrive at?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And understand the importance of it?

19 A Yes.

20 MR. CLAXTON: Mr. Fine, do you have anything?

21 MR. FINE: The only thing is I'd like as we've  
22 mentioned with others, we'd like to have Ms. Sisson have the  
23 opportunity to review her transcript at the appropriate time  
24 in the normal course.

25 MR. CLAXTON: We'll note that. Darrell, do you

1 have anything?

2 MR. WHITE: Two questions.

3 BY MR. WHITE:

4 Q Was the potential for delaying fuel load, was  
5 that discussed at that meeting? You mentioned for almost -  
6 - I think you said it, that these meetings were held because  
7 of the potential of delaying the fuel load. That's how come  
8 they were so urgent that these meetings took place.

9 A Everything that came up that was unanticipated  
10 when you have a schedule to do fuel load or an outage or  
11 anything gets a lot of attention, which it should.

12 Q Was that particularly discussed at that meeting  
13 with Central Labs that if these issues arise, there's going  
14 to be a delay in fuel load?

15 A Definitely not.

16 Q Okay.

17 A That wouldn't have been something that would even  
18 be brought up there.

19 Q And then the last point, did you ever work with  
20 Mr. Smith?

21 A No. Just indirectly through the lab and them  
22 doing work for us.

23 Q Did you ever see any evidence of sloppy work by  
24 Mr. Smith?

25 A No.

1 Q Or was your impression that he was squared away,  
2 the work was?

3 A He's fairly detailed. Of course, you're on a  
4 learning curve when you come into this type position, and I  
5 personally don't consider my metallurgists ready to stand on  
6 their own for like five years.

7 Q Was it typical to see omissions from reports you  
8 were getting from him, did you have to go back and ask him  
9 for extra detail or was he -- you mentioned he was pretty  
10 thorough. Would this be something that would be typical  
11 that he would mistakenly leave this out in your opinion?

12 A I wouldn't say that's the case, no.

13 MR. WHITE: Okay. That's all I have.

14 MR. CLAXTON: Do you have anything else --

15 THE INTERVIEWEE: No.

16 MR. CLAXTON: Would you like to add anything or  
17 clarify anything you've said?

18 THE INTERVIEWEE: No.

19 MR. CLAXTON: Has the information that you've  
20 provided been provided freely and voluntarily?

21 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes, it has.

22 MR. CLAXTON: Have you received any threats or  
23 promises from either myself or any other employee of the  
24 NRC?

25 THE INTERVIEWEE: No, I have not.

1 MR. CLAXTON: Okay. Mr. Fine, do you have  
2 anything else?

3 MR. FINE: Nothing further. Thank you.

4 MR. CLAXTON: That will conclude the interview at  
5 10:37.

6 [Whereupon, at 10:37 a.m., the interview was  
7 concluded.]

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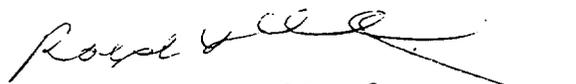
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STATE OF GEORGIA            )  
COUNTY OF CRAWFORD        )

I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true, correct, and complete record of the said proceedings; that I am not a relative, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties; am not a relative of attorney or counsel for any of the parties; nor am I financially interested in the action.

This, the 26th day of March, 1999.

  
Ralph L. Ledford