

# EXHIBIT 20

Case No. 2-1998-023

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K112 EXHIBIT 20

EX 7C



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WITNESS

EXAMINATION

DAVE BRIGGS

BY MR. CLAXTON

3

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. CLAXTON: For the record, today is Wednesday,  
3 May 12th, 1999. This interview is an interview of Dave  
4 Briggs. The interview is taking place at Watts Bar Nuclear  
5 Plant, 1260 Nuclear Plant Road in Spring City, Tennessee.

6 My name is Gary Claxton, I am a Special Agent with  
7 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Investigations.  
8 I have previously advised Mr. Briggs of the purpose of the  
9 interview, and I have also official identified myself as a  
10 Special Agent with the Office of Investigations.

11 Mr. Briggs, do you have any objections to being  
12 placed under oath for the information you give?

13 MR. BRIGGS: No, I don't.

14 MR. CLAXTON: Okay. Would you raise your right  
15 hand, please?  
16 Whereupon,

17 DAVE BRIGGS,

18 the interviewee, was called for examination and, having been  
19 first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

20 MR. CLAXTON: Thank you. You can put your hand  
21 down.

## D I R E C T E X A M I N A T I O N

22 BY MR. CLAXTON:

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

24 A Robert David Briggs.  
25

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1 Q And you home address?

2 A [REDACTED]

3 Q [REDACTED]

4 A Right.

5 Q Okay. And are you employed here at Watts Bar?

6 A Yes, I am.

7 Q What is your present occupation?

8 A I am the metallurgical engineering supervisor.

9 Q And how long have you been employed by Watts Bar?

10 A Nine years.

11 Q And were you employed here in June of 1995?

12 A Yes, I was.

13 Q And what was your position at that time, if you  
14 recall?

15 A Basically, the same position, I am not sure of the  
16 title.

17 Q Okay. What were your responsibilities as  
18 metallurgical engineering supervisor?

19 A Actually, at the time I was on loan to another  
20 organization working primarily on closing PERs and closing  
21 DCMs. I still performed the administrative functions over  
22 the people that were assigned to me, but I didn't do a whole  
23 lot of supervision of them at that time.

24 Q Okay. You referred to a PER, is that a P-E-R?

25 A P-E-R, I'm sorry.

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1 Q That's all right. Plan evaluation report, or  
2 problem evaluation report.

3 A Problem evaluation report.

4 Q And a DCM?

5 A Design change request.

6 Q Okay. In June of 1995, a report was issued by the  
7 Central Lab Services here at TVA regarding some ice basket  
8 screws.

9 A Yes.

10 Q Were you involved with that study or with that  
11 request for the examination in any way?

12 A Not really. I was kind of on the periphery  
13 because one person that worked for me was somewhat involved?

14 Q Who was that?

15 A Vonda Sissom.

16 Q V-o-n-d-a?

17 A V-o-n-d-a.

18 Q S-i-s-s-o-m?

19 A S-i-s-s-o-m.

20 Q Did she discuss her involvement with you in any  
21 way?

22 A Not really. I haven't discussed it with her in  
23 several years. She was -- she did discuss the original  
24 report that came in with the lab drawing conclusions on the  
25 report and we did make an effort to have that represent

1 revised to delete the conclusions that were drawn by the  
2 laboratory.

3 Q Okay. And I want to show you a report that I have  
4 here dated June 12, 1995, it is report number 95-1021. Is  
5 that the report that you were referring to?

6 A It appears to be.

7 Q Okay. Now, how did it come about that Ms. Sissom  
8 wanted to delete or change some items on the report?

9 A Well, it was more or less a policy of I will call  
10 him the branch manager, corporate branch manager, that the  
11 lab should do the analysis part of it, but the actual  
12 conclusions, as part of the analysis, should be drawn by the  
13 plant engineering organization that was aware of the  
14 environment that the materials were in and the operating  
15 cycles or whatever that the materials went through.

16 Q Was that Mr. Woods?

17 A That was Mr. Woods.

18 Q Was he your supervisor?

19 A Indirectly. He was my I am going to call it  
20 technical supervisor on site. I had an administrative  
21 supervisor, but at the time it was sort of set up to where  
22 each branch had a corporate responsible manager that sort of  
23 technically was responsible for the product that you turned  
24 out. And that has gone that way and then back to the site  
25 is totally responsible for everything. But at the time I

1 recall that it was kind of set up that Mr. Woods was the  
2 technical manager and responsible for the products that you  
3 put out.

4 Q Do you recall how Ms. Sissom came about being  
5 aware of how she found out about these conclusions that  
6 needed to be changed, did she discuss that with you?

7 A I am not sure whether it was through discussions  
8 with Mr. Woods or with another site manager or conclusions  
9 that she drew on her own, but it was -- it has been a policy  
10 for a long time that we should not have the laboratory  
11 drawing conclusions when they aren't really aware of the  
12 environment that the material has been in. And some of the  
13 conclusions were thought to be not relevant to the actual  
14 conditions that we had. So that was the reason for wanting  
15 -- to my knowledge, for wanting the stuff out.

16 Q Now, according to your knowledge, what happened  
17 after Ms. Sissom came to you and discussed this with you?

18 A I am not sure exactly how it happened, whether she  
19 had discussed it with the site supervisor or with Mr. Woods  
20 first, but I am not even sure that she is the only that  
21 really decided that it needed to be fixed. But what we did  
22 was try to round up the copies that had this REMS number on  
23 it, the accession number that is on this document.

24 Q I am sorry, the what number?

25 A It is called the accession number, the REMS



1 number, this number at the top of the document.

2 Q Okay. And how do you -- accession?

3 A A-c-c-e-s-s-i-o-n.

4 Q Okay.

5 A I believe is the terminology.

6 Q All right.

7 A That is how it gets stored in the microfilm  
8 anyway.

9 Q Okay.

10 A And if you know that number, that is the easiest  
11 way to recall it. But there weren't thought at the time to  
12 be but half a dozen copies out and the lab thought they got  
13 all of the copies back. And from that, then they revised it  
14 and maybe a couple of weeks later reissued it with the same  
15 number on it.

16 Q Were you involved in recalling these reports?

17 A No.

18 Q Okay. Was that Ms. Sissom?

19 A I think she collected the ones that were on site,  
20 I am not sure where any others might have been.

21 Q Did you have any discussions with Mr. Woods about  
22 this report of June 2nd?

23 A Not really. The only thing I was aware of was  
24 that there was stuff in there that we didn't feel like was  
25 appropriate for this report, and that we needed to get that

1 stuff out and then get it into a site report done by site  
2 engineering, or at least by corporate engineering. I don't  
3 think we had the resources at the time to really do a good  
4 review and issue our own report.

5 Q At the bottom of the first page, you can see  
6 highlighted there, the bottom of the first page of the  
7 report dated June 2nd.

8 A Yes.

9 Q It talks about some set B screws. Then that  
10 information continues over onto the second page, and it  
11 talks about some indications the cracks may have been  
12 present at the time of the manufacture or during the  
13 manufacturing process.

14 A Yes.

15 Q Were you familiar with whether that information  
16 was removed or were you involved in --

17 A No, I was not.

18 Q Okay. Did you come to learn at some point that  
19 the information regarding set B had been removed?

20 A Really, I have just really become aware of that  
21 today.

22 Q Okay. Now, not knowing how much you are aware of,  
23 let me just explain to you that set B in this report of June  
24 2nd refers to some new screws that were taken out of the  
25 warehouse for testing.

1 A Yes.

2 Q And apparently those screws were tested by the  
3 metallurgical lab, Central Lab, and they found that there  
4 may have been some manufacturing defects or some properties  
5 that were present during the manufacturing process, and that  
6 did not appear in the second report. And I think what I  
7 heard you say was that you were not aware of that, is that  
8 correct?

9 A No, I wasn't. I thought that the only information  
10 that was taken from it was conclusions that were drawn on  
11 how the material failed.

12 Q Okay. Do you recall reading this report at the  
13 time it came out?

14 A I don't think I have ever read the total report.

15 Q Okay. So the information that you had, you  
16 gathered primarily from Vonda?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Okay. Do you recall whether you discussed it with  
19 anybody else?

20 A No, I haven't. I mean I have talked about the  
21 fact that there were two reports, but what got deleted  
22 exactly, I have not discussed with anybody.

23 Q When the Central Labs prepares a draft report, do  
24 you ever see that draft report in a hard copy or over e-mail  
25 or anything?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. Do you ever see it over e-mail or over --

3 A Most of the time --

4 Q Let me say electronically, do you ever get that  
5 over your computer?

6 A I have a young lady who works for me now named  
7 Sharon Gray and they are generally e-mailed to her for her  
8 review, and occasionally she will make a hard copy from it  
9 and we will look at it. But I am more or less now in the  
10 full supervision and I am off working on other things.

11 Q Now, what would Sharon typically look for when you  
12 say she would review it?

13 A One thing she would look for is to make sure that  
14 they hadn't really drawn any conclusions in the report.  
15 Usually they will not issue a report at this time until we  
16 have reviewed it and told them that we are satisfied with  
17 the information that they have put in it.

18 Once we get the approved report, then we will  
19 generally prepare a site report that the lab report becomes  
20 an attachment of, and then it is forwarded to the people  
21 that need that information.

22 Q Okay. So --

23 A It also goes into the REMS system, like this  
24 particular document did.

25 Q Okay. Now, who would place it into the REM

1 system?

2 A She would.

3 Q Sharon would?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q Okay. So it is not put into the REM system at  
6 Central Labs?

7 A Yes, it is.

8 Q Okay.

9 A Central Labs will REMS all of their reports, but  
10 them we will also REMS our report that uses this as an  
11 attachment.

12 Q I see, I understand. So Sharon Gray actually  
13 would review it more from a technical stance, or a context  
14 to make sure that the right things were in there?

15 A Both.

16 Q Okay. Or she would make sure that they don't say  
17 too much, is that correct?

18 A Well, she would make sure that they weren't trying  
19 to draw conclusions. I mean we would like them to tell us  
20 what the failure mechanism is if they can, such as fatigue,  
21 or structural failure, whatever, but they aren't really  
22 aware of the operating conditions and environment that the  
23 equipment is in. We are, so it is more appropriate that we  
24 make -- we draw the conclusions as to why the failure is.  
25 Sometimes there is no conclusion to be drawn, there is just

1 not enough information that you could really determine, you  
2 know, why something failed. But we feel like we have -- I  
3 would say our finger on the pulse of how the plant is  
4 operating, what environment the material is in, and we are  
5 better able to make a judgment as to why a component fails.

6 Q Now, would Sharon have the opportunity or the  
7 capabilities of actually editing the report that she  
8 receives?

9 A No. When it is in draft, yes. When it is final,  
10 no. It is final-final when it comes to --

11 Q I probably need to be asking Sharon these  
12 questions, but I will ask you just so I will know, you know,  
13 if you happen to know. If she receives a draft report and  
14 she changes something, does she note that? I mean does she  
15 notify Central Labs that she changed or she took something  
16 out?

17 A Yes. Because they have to then take whatever our  
18 comments are and incorporate them into their final report  
19 before they put that number on it and they sign the dotted  
20 line.

21 Q Okay. And you just pointed to the report, said  
22 that number, and you are referring to the report number  
23 95-1021 or whatever report number it happens to be for  
24 anything?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Okay.

2 A That number, report number will be on there. The  
3 REMS number is actually what I was referring to.

4 Q Oh, I see. Okay.

5 A Now, what we get by e-mail or in draft will not be  
6 signed by Ms. Frazier and would not have this number on it  
7 up here. The REMS number.

8 Q The REMS number would not be on it.

9 A The report number would be.

10 Q So, that draft report would just keep going back  
11 and forth until everyone was satisfied, and then at that  
12 point, Ms. Frazier or whoever the supervisor happened to be  
13 would sign it and they would issue it a REMS number?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Okay. I have seen the term "endorsement" on these  
16 reports. Do you know what an endorsement is?

17 A It saying that you agree with something, but I am  
18 not sure I have noticed an endorsement.

19 Q Okay. I was thinking of something else perhaps.

20 A Well, it might be, but to me that is what it is.

21 Q Okay. Now, we also talked briefly before we  
22 started the interview regarding a meeting that was held on  
23 June 14th, 1995.

24 A Yes.

25 Q And if you don't mind, let me just ask you again

1 if you can tell me briefly what you recall about that  
2 meeting and did you see the sign-in sheet that I showed you?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And was your name on there?

5 A It was.

6 Q Does that appear to be your handwriting?

7 A Yes, it is.

8 Q Okay. Do you recall being at that meeting?

9 A Like I say, when you asked me I only recalled  
10 after being asked if I had taken any notes for the meeting,  
11 and I was asked [inaudible] sometime. I didn't recall  
12 before that being at the meeting, I had no notes on the  
13 meeting. And after being asked, I did recall that there was  
14 a meeting, but exactly what the discussion was, I am not  
15 sure.

16 Q Do you recall who asked you about that meeting  
17 last summer?

18 A I think it was Mr. Bigluicci.

19 Q Okay. The attorney for TVA?

20 A Yes. I seem to recall also that somewhere in  
21 progress -- or in the process of the meeting that the  
22 people, you know, that it appeared didn't really have any  
23 contribution to make were told that they could leave. I  
24 don't know if I remember that from the meeting itself or  
25 from discussions with other people that were at the meeting



1 later. I don't believe I was in the meeting very long.

2 Q Do you recall whether or not you were attending a  
3 lot of meetings during that time period?

4 A Considerable.

5 Q Okay. But you don't recall anything significant  
6 about this particular meeting?

7 A No, I don't.

8 Q Do you recall how you found out about the meeting?

9 A I was told, and I don't remember by whom, that  
10 there was going to be a meeting and I think there was three  
11 people from our organization, at least based on the list,  
12 that were at the meeting. That was Ms. Sissom and Teresa  
13 Casner, who you have talked with this morning. And I don't  
14 believe any of us stayed in the meeting all that long, and  
15 this is based on discussions that I have had with Ms. Sissom  
16 since then.

17 Q Do you recall who led the meeting?

7C

18 A [REDACTED]  
19 [REDACTED]

20 Q [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

1 not sure how many, somewhere probably in the neighborhood of  
2 75 to 100 last fall down at the laboratories.

3 Q At that time, in 1998, back in the fall of '98  
4 when you did this additional testing, did Mr. Woods discuss  
5 with you some of the shortcomings of the first report? I'm  
6 sorry. Did he discuss with you the shortcomings of the  
7 second report where some information was not included?

8 A I don't remember discussing it.

9 Q Okay. And, specifically, the information about  
10 the new unused screws where there was -- that that  
11 information was deleted from the first report -- I'm sorry  
12 -- was deleted when the second report was produced?

13 A I seem to recall that, you know, that NRC had an  
14 interest in the new screws, and, therefore, we were going to  
15 take some screws from the warehouse and send them down to  
16 the lab and test them. And pretty much what I remember  
17 being discussed was how many we needed to send.

18 Q We had what is referred to as a reconciliation  
19 report, it is dated October 20th, 1998, and this was -- the  
20 cover letter is from Terry Woods to J.E. Maddox,  
21 M-a-d-d-o-x, and it includes the reconciliation report which  
22 compares the metallurgical reports used by the Central Labs.  
23 The first report was June 2nd and the second report was June  
24 19th. Now, to kind of restate that, this report talks about  
25 the differences in those two reports.

1 A Okay.

2 Q Are you familiar with this reconciliation report?

3 A I think I have seen it, but I don't remember at  
4 this time, you know, exactly what is in it.

5 Q Did you help prepare it?

6 A No.

7 Q Okay. Did Mr. Woods request any information from  
8 you or talk to you while he was preparing it?

9 A No. What he had us do was arrange to get the  
10 material to the laboratory and get it tested. And he  
11 provided the test plan, you know, to the laboratory for the  
12 test that needed to be done.

13 Q On page 2 of the reconciliation report that I will  
14 show you here, under the heading of "Discussion," point  
15 number 3, it says, "Pertinent information regarding cracks  
16 found in a new screw from sample sets A and B, which was  
17 given in the first report, was omitted from the second  
18 report." Was that a topic of conversation back in the fall,  
19 I mean the fact that that information was omitted?

20 A I don't remember that being the reason why we were  
21 doing the additional testing on the unused screws. I can't  
22 say that it is not, but I don't remember that being the  
23 reason we were doing it.

24 Q All right. If we look at the June 2nd report  
25 which discusses the set B screws and the cracks that were

1 found there.

2 A Okay.

3 Q What normally would happen to that information?  
4 If that information had remained, and let's say  
5 hypothetically there never was a second report, let's say  
6 this first report had stayed out there, and you have got  
7 information about a new screw that has cracks in it, what  
8 next? Who would take what action that you -- according to  
9 your knowledge, as far as you know?

10 A I would have considered that we probably would  
11 have put them into a control through a nonconforming  
12 condition tag and attempted to have them replaced by the  
13 manufacturer. Then, generally, an extent of condition is  
14 done. However, we already had the extent. We had these  
15 things from the ice condenser and we knew that, you know,  
16 probably the material in the warehouse was basically the  
17 same material that we had installed in the field.

18 So then you would be evaluating as to whether you  
19 could acceptably operate the plant with material that had  
20 this problem, or whether you needed to replace the material.

21 Q Who would be responsible for carrying that out,  
22 that additional testing?

23 A Well, the civil engineers were given the -- I  
24 guess it was a PER, P-E-R. And they, working with  
25 Westinghouse, to my knowledge, made a determination that we

1 could either work with the condition or we needed to  
2 replace. I believe the conclusion was that we could live  
3 with the condition and we didn't do much in the way of  
4 replacement.

5 Q Did you see the report that came from  
6 Westinghouse?

7 A No, I didn't.

8 Q You didn't have any responsibilities or you  
9 weren't involved in any way with that?

10 A No, I wasn't. That action was between the civil  
11 engineering group and Westinghouse and how much Mr. Woods  
12 may or may not have been involved, I am not really sure.  
13 One thing you need to understand is I am a mechanical  
14 engineer, I am not a metallurgist, so I rely highly on Mr.  
15 Woods' handling and opinions on things involving  
16 metallurgic.

17 Q I understand. Have you talked to Mr. Woods  
18 regarding this topic recently?

19 A Not since last fall.

20 Q Okay. When you did the additional testing?

21 A Right.

22 Q All right. I don't think I can think of anything  
23 else at the time. Do you have any other information you  
24 would like to add or anything maybe I have failed to ask you  
25 that you think is important?

1 A Not really.

2 Q Okay. Well, if you don't have anything else, we  
3 will conclude the interview at 12:43. I would like to ask  
4 you if you have provided all this information freely and  
5 voluntarily?

6 A I have.

7 Q Okay. Have there been any threats or promises  
8 made to you regarding the information you have provided?

9 A

10 None.

11 MR. CLAXTON: All right. Well, I appreciate you  
12 coming by and we will conclude the interview.

13 [Whereupon, at 12:43 p.m., the interview was  
14 concluded.]

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CERTIFICATE

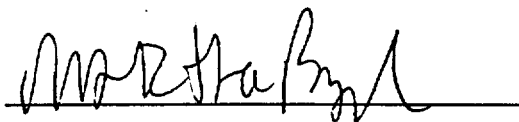
This is to certify that the attached proceedings before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the matter of:

Name of Proceeding: INTERVIEW OF  
DAVE BRIGGS  
(CLOSED)

Docket Number: 2-1998-023

Place of Proceeding: Spring City, TN

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.



Martha Brazil

Transcriber

Ann Riley & Associates, Ltd.