

EXHIBIT 32

Case No. 2-1998-023

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EXHIBIT 32

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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In the Matter of: :
INTERVIEW OF : Case No. 2-1998-023
LARRY KATCHAM :
(CLOSED) :

-----X
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee
Thursday, September 2, 1999

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

BEFORE:

GARY H. CLAXTON, Special Agent

APPEARANCES:

On Behalf of the Interviewee:

ED BIGLUICCI, Esquire
Senior Nuclear Licensing Counsel
Office of General Counsel
TVA Nuclear

EXHIBIT 32
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2-1998-023

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WITNESS EXAMINATION

LARRY KATCHAM

BY MR. CLAXTON

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. CLAXTON: For the record, today's date is
3 September 2nd, 1999. This is an interview of Larry Katcham.
4 The interview is being conducted at the Tennessee Valley
5 Authority located at 400 West Summit Hill Drive in
6 Knoxville, Tennessee.

7 I am Special Agent Gary H. Claxton of the Nuclear
8 Regulatory Commission, Office of Investigations. Also
9 present at the interview is Ed Bigluicci, who I will allow
10 to introduce himself and give his purpose for being here.

11 MR. BIGLUICCI: My name is Ed Bigluicci, I am with
12 the Tennessee Valley Authority, Office of General Counsel,
13 and I am TVA's Senior Nuclear Licensing Counsel, and I am
14 here representing Larry Katcham. Larry was a former TVA
15 employee and because the actions at issue involved
16 activities that occurred while he was here at TVA and was in
17 TVA's employ, he is entitled to have counsel if he so
18 wishes.

19 MR. CLAXTON: Mr. Katcham, have you asked Mr.
20 Bigluicci to be here with you tonight?

21 MR. KATCHAM: Yes, I have.

22 MR. CLAXTON: Okay. So you have consented to
23 that. You know his position here with TVA as General
24 Counsel.

25 MR. KATCHAM: Right.

1 MR. CLAXTON: Do you realize that you have the
2 right to come to the NRC at any time and provide information
3 on a confidential basis?

4 MR. KATCHAM: Yes, I do.

5 MR. CLAXTON: Prior to the beginning of this
6 interview, did I officially identify myself to you?

7 MR. KATCHAM: Yes.

8 MR. CLAXTON: As a representative of the Nuclear
9 Regulatory Commission?

10 MR. KATCHAM: Right.

11 MR. CLAXTON: All right. Do you have any
12 objection to providing this information under oath?

13 MR. KATCHAM: No.

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

16 Whereupon,

17 LARRY KATCHAM,

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.

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. CLAXTON:

24 Q As we go through the interview, if you don't mind,
25 if you give a proper name or an acronym, if you would spell

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1 that out, I would appreciate it.

2 A Okay.

3 Q And then the person who will be transcribing this
4 would also appreciate it.

5 A The person who is transcribing may be better at
6 spelling than I am.

7 Q Would you give your full name, please?

8 A It's Larry Allen Katcham.

9 Q And spell your last name.

10 A K-a-t-c-h-a-m.

11 Q And would you spell your middle name?

12 A Allen is A-l-l-e-n.

13 Q And what is your present home address?

14 A 

15 

16 Q And your home phone number, please?

17 A 

18 Q Are you presently employed?

19 A I am employed by SAIC, Science Application
20 International Corporation.

21 Q And where are they located?

22 A They are -- the office I work in is in Oak Ridge,
23 their home office is in California.

24 Q What is your occupation?

25 A I am a civil engineer.

7C

7L

1 Q And can you provide your telephone number at your
2 office?

3 A It is the same area code, 423-481-8527.

4 Q And I think as Mr. Bigluicci said earlier, you
5 were a former employee of TVA?

6 A Right.

7 Q What was -- well, if you don't mind, just give us
8 a brief resume of your employment here.

9 A Okay.

10 Q Starting with the most recent and working back
11 with the years.

12 A Okay. Most recent was I was structural engineer
13 supervisor at Watts Bar nuclear facility. Then I worked for
14 James Adair who is lead civil engineer. Previous to that I
15 worked here in Knoxville, Summer Place Towers. And previous
16 to that I worked for a year and a half at Sequoia during
17 restart.

18 Q How long were you employed at Watts Bar as a
19 structural engineer?

20 A I am a bit foggy on exactly how long it was, but
21 it was, let's see, probably seven years, somewhere in that,
22 somewhere in that range. I am not exactly sure, but
23 somewhere about that range. Actually, and I worked for TVA
24 since 1967, so before I was at the sites, I was here in
25 Knoxville for some 20-something years.

1 Q Prior to your employment with TVA, what did you
2 do?

3 A I was in the Army, the military, the Corps of
4 Engineers for two years.

5 Q Were you involved in engineering?

6 A I taught at the Engineering Officer Basic School
7 in Ft. Belvoir, Virginia.

8 Q Do you spell Belvoir, B-e-l-v-o-i-r?

9 A Right.

10 Q That was in Virginia?

11 A Right.

12 Q Were you involved in nuclear type engineering with
13 the Army?

14 A No.

15 Q Did you receive any -- well, let me ask you.
16 Where did you -- I noticed on your card you are a civil
17 engineer and PE which is professional engineer.

18 A Right.

19 Q Are you degreed?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Where did you receive a degree?

22 A I have an undergraduate degree from Tennessee Tech
23 and I have a master's degree from the University of
24 Tennessee, and completed all the course work for a Ph.D. at
25 the University of Tennessee but never completed a

1 dissertation.

2 Q All right. I think as we talked earlier, I see
3 you have a copy of the corrective action report.

4 A Right.

5 Q And that is for the Watts Bar PER, P-E-R, 950246.
6 Can you just give me a brief rundown or a brief description
7 of what a CAR or corrective action report is and what it is
8 used for?

9 A Typically, when something is found not to me the
10 -- either the drawing specs or requirements, that you can
11 define a deviation from a particular requirement that, in
12 this case, Watts Bar had. Someone who discovers it writes
13 what they found as a non-complying issue with that
14 particular either procedure or drawing, or what-have-you.
15 And then you develop what should be the corrective actions
16 to correct the issue. There are also parts of that CAQR
17 that would be the interim actions that may be required or --

18 Q I'm sorry. That was interim actions?

19 A Interim. Interim actions.

20 Q Interim. Okay.

21 A Right. Or supplemental actions that -- or
22 follow-up actions that are required in addition to the
23 corrective actions.

24 Q Now, the CAR that we will be talking about today,
25 as I just said, was Watts Bar PER, that's P-E-R, plan

1 evaluation report, or problem evaluation report.

2 A Problem.

3 Q Problem evaluation report.

4 A Right.

5 Q 950246. So if it is okay if we just refer to it
6 as the PER.

7 A Sure.

8 Q And for the transcriptionist's information, that
9 is PER, and then for the corrective action report, we will
10 just refer to that as the CAR or C-A-R.

11 A Okay.

12 Q And if we -- or if I refer to any other PERs or
13 CARs, I will certainly define them. Have you had any chance
14 to review the CAR-246?

15 A Yes. Yes.

16 Q I believe you -- well, as a matter of fact, why
17 don't we just look -- if you will look on page 24. I would
18 just like for you to verify that that is your signature and
19 that you signed off on that as having reviewed the
20 completeness and accuracy of the PER.

21 A Yes. That is my signature.

22 Q Okay. When you review a CAR or a C-A-R, what are
23 your responsibilities? I know there are a lot of documents
24 here, there are lot of -- it looks like there is a lot of
25 other work that other people have done. Just using this CAR

1 as an example, can you give me a little bit about what your
2 actual involvement is as far as the amount of detail you go
3 to?

4 A Right.

5 Q If you understand my question.

6 A I think so. Let me try to answer it, then you
7 tell me if I haven't completed the response. What I always,
8 in this case what I was supposed to do was to determine,
9 first of all, the corrective action steps, what would
10 resolve the issue, or what I felt would resolve the issue
11 and then have whomever reviews the CAQ, a board or a number
12 of folks reviewed the corrective action, then to agree or
13 disagree, or add or what-have-you to the corrective actions.

14 Q And did they do that in this case?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Typically, who would that be? Who make that or
17 comprise that board?

18 A Typically, it would be my supervisor and someone
19 from licensing and someone from maybe higher management like
20 the engineering manager's representative.

21 Q Is it typically that they -- and when I say they,
22 the reviewing board that would review your corrective action
23 steps, do they pick this apart pretty closely, or do they
24 kind of rely upon your technical expertise? What has been
25 your experience there?

1 A My experience is that they generally rely on your
2 expertise, but if they know something more about the subject
3 or they know something that should be done or have some
4 ideas on something that they throw out on the table and say,
5 why don't we do this? Yeah, they do that sort of thing.

6 Q I will be asking your some questions about the
7 corrective action steps a little bit later. I think you
8 just answered one of the questions. You come up with the
9 actual corrective action step?

10 A Right.

11 Q Do you -- go ahead.

12 A My supervisor and I, in this case I think James
13 Adair and I talked about, and a number of cases. You would,
14 but in this case we did talk about what we thought the
15 corrective actions were, because, obviously, we knew that
16 this was not a run of the mill type nonconformance. We knew
17 it was something that needed our immediate attention and
18 needed to be resolved. So James and I discussed it.

19 Q Was there some indication either from you or
20 somebody else that this was more urgent, or the steps needed
21 to be taken more quickly than Mr. Adair thought? I kind of
22 get the sense that --

23 A I don't understand that.

24 Q Okay. You said that you and Mr. Adair talked it
25 over, and from what I understood you said it wasn't urgent,

1 if that is the correct word, and these steps --

2 A No, I didn't. I didn't intend to say that if that
3 is what I said.

4 Q Okay.

5 A But what I intended to say was that this was -- we
6 felt that this was an issue that needed to be resolved and
7 it was urgent.

8 Q Oh, that it was urgent.

9 A Yeah.

10 Q Okay. I'm sorry. I did misunderstand you. All
11 right.

12 A Didn't I say that?

13 Q Yeah. I apologize. That was purely a
14 misunderstanding on my part, and that is why I followed up
15 with the question.

16 A Okay.

17 Q As to -- I was going to say how you came about
18 that decision. If we could, I would like to just kind of go
19 through, starting toward the front of the CAR and just ask
20 you some questions about some of the things we will see
21 there. If you would, turn to page 6.

22 A Six.

23 Q Yeah, they are numbered at the bottom.

24 A Let me, if I may, let me follow up on the question
25 about where I was going through this corrective action.

1 Q Sure.

2 A We develop the corrective action and then we
3 follow up to make sure that interim actions, if interim
4 actions are required, we take care of interim actions. If
5 interim actions are not required, we will go on and make
6 sure that by some method we resolve each of the corrective
7 actions. And then when we get together the documentation
8 that is required to close the PER, they had a closure group
9 that reviewed the documentation and ensure that for each of
10 the corrective action steps, there is a piece of
11 documentation. There is a retrievable document that shows
12 that, yeah, there is closure on that issue, and the closure
13 on that issue is this document that is referenced here.

14 Q Does that group typically have an administrative
15 name to it that would review that package that is assembled?

16 A I think they were called the closure group, CAQ
17 closure group, I believe, was the name they were called. I
18 this case I think Tom McCollum signed off on it.

19 Q Okay. On page 6, there is a -- what is called a
20 continuation page, a continuation from -- although I don't
21 see a number on it. The continuation page states to the
22 effect that, apparently it looks like an agreement to
23 transfer the responsible organization for completing the
24 corrective action for this particular PER from, and then I
25 will let you tell me what that acronym is for WBO-NSS.

1 A I am not sure. I would think that that -- I am
2 not sure what that organization is. I know it transferred
3 from the organization that had written it, which was the
4 organization Curtis Overall was in, which I assume was
5 maintenance or whatever organization he was in, to our
6 organization, and that was based on the corrective action,
7 what we felt were corrective actions were primarily
8 engineering actions, as opposed to maintenance type actions.

9 Q To go on, regarding that transfer, it is a
10 transfer from WBO-NSS to WBT-LCE-LAK. Are you familiar with
11 what those acronyms are?

12 A Yes. That is Watts Bar Nuclear Plan, Lead Civil
13 Engineer.

14 Q Lead, I'm sorry, lead civil engineer?

15 A Right. And Larry Katcham. Larry A. Katcham.

16 Q Okay.

17 A Those are primarily letters used in Primavera
18 schedule. I mean they put those in there simply because any
19 of the action items that were assigned to a supervisor to be
20 tracked by Primavera scheduling. So those were Primavera
21 scheduling.

22 Q Okay. What is the word you used, Primavera?

23 A Primavera, it is a type of scheduling tool.

24 Q Okay. Do you know how to spell that by any
25 chance?

1 A Yeah. It is one word, P-r-i-m-a-v-e-r-a.

2 Q Is that a type of software?

3 A Uh-huh.

4 Q Okay.

5 A Yeah.

6 Q And at the bottom of this continuation page we
7 were just talking about, it appears to be -- is that Randy
8 McCormick.

9 A Right, Randy McCormick. Right.

10 Q That is transferred from Mr. McCormick and it
11 looks like he has signed it, dated July 10th, 1995, to James
12 G. Adair, dated -- it looks like he has also signed it,
13 dated July 12th, 1995. And you were working under --

14 A For James.

15 Q Under Mr. Adair's supervision at that time?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay. How did you become involved, what was the
18 first involvement you recall on this PER?

19 A My memory, I mean it is not perfectly clear, but I
20 can tell you that we had a meeting, and I am not sure that I
21 heard any of the details prior to the meeting, but we did
22 have a meeting with the people that had written the PER and
23 the metallurgy people at the site. I am not sure at that
24 time if Chattanooga metallurgy people were involved in that
25 meeting or not. But we had a meeting and Curtis Overall,

1 who had written the PER, explained what he had found and
2 what he thought had caused the screws to be in the ice ring
3 basket and we went over the particulars of what the PER
4 said, and that is my first recollection of it.

5 Q Now, was this -- did you say this was after the
6 transfer?

7 A No. No. That was prior -- that was prior to the
8 transfer.

9 Q Okay. Was this a joint meeting where nuclear
10 engineering and I think Mr. Overall works for technical
11 services.

12 A Right. Okay.

13 Q Do you recall that that was a joint meeting?

14 A Yes, it was.

15 Q Do you recall what happened as a result of that
16 meeting?

17 A I don't -- I don't -- I would guess, and I guess
18 it is wrong to make guesses, but it is a pretty fair
19 assumption that, based on what we discussed in that meeting,
20 we decided that primarily the resolution of the PER would be
21 primarily engineering. I don't even -- I don't recall if
22 the corrective actions were lined out or whether we even
23 discussed corrective actions. I just don't recall the
24 details of the meeting.

25 Q And let me say right now, if you are not clear on

1 something, you know, if it is your best recollection, I take
2 that at face value.

3 A Okay.

4 Q I am not going to hold you to anything if you say,
5 I think or the best I recall, or something like that.

6 A Okay.

7 Q The best your recall, I would appreciate anything,
8 any details.

9 A Okay. It is as I told Ed, in talking with Ed, you
10 know, I want to tell you guys exactly what I believe to be
11 fact, but, you know, I don't want you to tell you something
12 that -- I certainly am not going to tell you something that
13 is untrue, but I will tell you as much as I can remember and
14 those that I don't remember, I will try to tell you that,
15 you know, if I remember it.

16 Q I won't ask any more of you. I would appreciate
17 that. At what point was the PER assigned to you, do you
18 recall?

19 A Once this was signed, it was assigned to me.

20 Q Okay.

21 A Once that was signed on 7/12, when James Adair
22 signed, it was --

23 Q Okay. You are pointing to the document that
24 served to transfer the PER.

25 A Right.

1 Q From apparently technical services over to nuclear
2 engineering?

3 A Right.

4 Q Okay. Did -- let's see, I think we said that was
5 dated July 10th, one signature is July 10th and one was July
6 12th, 1995.

7 A Right. Yeah. But it wouldn't have been
8 transferred until the last signature, of course, until James
9 had signed it.

10 Q Okay. Now, by this time the Central Lab Services
11 had had an opportunity to examine some screws that had been
12 found in the melt tank of the ice condenser, is that
13 correct? Did you have an opportunity to review one or both
14 of those reports?

15 A I have looked at those reports in this document,
16 the document that Ed sent me, and I am not a metallurgist,
17 and, you know, I understand some of the information that is
18 in the metallurgy report, but I don't understand the
19 implications of it. And as to whether I saw the first
20 report, I assume that it is the second report in the
21 document. I don't think -- I don't recall anything about
22 it. If I saw it, I don't remember what it said. I may very
23 well have seen it.

24 Q Did Mr. Adair talk with you about what direction
25 you were supposed to go in or the fact that the -- well,

1 let's just take it one question at a time. Did Mr. Adair
2 talk with you in any way about what direction he wanted you
3 to take this, or did he have any suggestions?

4 A Yeah, we discussed how we needed to -- how best to
5 resolve the issue, yes.

6 Q Did he advise you that there had been a previous
7 metallurgy report?

8 A I knew, yes. I knew that there were two reports,
9 right. I didn't know that the first report, until -- I
10 guess until recently, I didn't realize that the first report
11 had been [inaudible] -- had been issued. I knew that there
12 was a first report, and then I knew that there was a
13 corrective to that report.

14 Q Do you know how that correction came about?

15 A I know how it came about based on what I read in
16 here. There is a follow up. There is a follow up, what do
17 you call it, supplement to the PER.

18 Q Let's talk about what you knew at that time.

19 A Okay.

20 Q When the PER was assigned to you, do you recall
21 that you were aware of the report dated June 2nd, which was
22 the first report?

23 A I certainly didn't know what date it was, but I
24 was aware that there was a report on it, yes.

25 Q Did Mr. Adair kind of tell you what the problems

1 were and why it had been rewritten?

2 A I really don't -- I don't recall.

3 Q Did anyone talk to about that, Terry Woods, the
4 chief metallurgist, or anyone other than Mr. Adair? And I
5 know we are reaching back like four or five years.

6 A Yeah, I am not -- I am certainly not withholding
7 any information, but I just don't remember if anyone told me
8 about it. Because I don't -- I don't recall. I'm sorry.

9 Q Okay. And my question was, do you recall anyone
10 talking to you about that first report and your answer is
11 you don't recall.

12 A Yes.

13 Q But you were aware that that was a first report?

14 A Yeah, I was aware. Right. But I don't know that
15 I was aware, and I don't know that anyone discussed with me
16 the reason for the second report.

17 Q And I think what you are telling me -- what I hear
18 you saying is that your memory is just -- is kind is from
19 what I gather now --

20 A Right.

21 Q Okay.

22 A Yeah. Because I do know, based on what I have
23 read, why there was a second report. But I don't know that
24 I knew that then. I am not sure that I did.

25 Q Okay. Could you look at page 13 on the PER?

1 A Okay.

2 Q Can you just tell me what that sheet is and what
3 means, especially the handwritten notes at the end of that
4 second sentence? Do you know what this continuation sheet
5 is telling you?

6 A I am not sure I can read it. It says, "See
7 corrective actions number 3 and 4 to the revised" -- what is
8 that next word?

9 Q "Procedures," is that --

10 A "Procedures as required" --

11 Q Do we agree on that, "as required"?

12 A I guess. It looks like Jim Chen wrote it, and Jim
13 Chen at that point worked for me.

14 Q Okay. And that was my next questions. Is that
15 C-h-a-n or --

16 A C-h-e-n.

17 Q C-h-e-n.

18 A Yeah.

19 Q What was his title or what did he do, what was his
20 responsibility?

21 A Joe and I worked together on the resolution of
22 this thing. As a matter of fact, Joe -- he was -- and he is
23 a civil engineer as well, Joe and I both went into the ice
24 condenser to see if we could find any broken screws or any
25 broken heads, or to see if we could -- how far up the ice

1 baskets we could see to see if any of the screws were
2 missing.

3 Q Okay. Now, was this Mr. Overall had found 160 or
4 170 pieces?

5 A Uh-huh. Right.

6 Q Okay. And then you and Mr. Chen went in to see if
7 you could find any more? To see --

8 A Right. Yeah. To see the extent of condition,
9 really, I guess is what I am saying. You couldn't see --
10 certainly, you couldn't see the total extent of the ice
11 basket because it, you know, but we went in. And I am not
12 absolutely certain that we went only in Unit 1. We my have
13 gone in Unit 2 as well. But we were looking to see if we
14 could see any place where those screws were missing, and we
15 didn't find any missing.

16 What this statement means is --

17 Q Okay. We are looking at the handwritten statement
18 out next to the typewritten statement. It says, "revise
19 affected procedure as required."

20 A Right.

21 Q Okay. When we -- you know, this is as much my
22 fault as anything, but when we start talking about something
23 else, when you read the transcript, sometimes you don't know
24 what we are referring to, so sometimes I will refer you back
25 to what I am talking about.

1 A Okay. I am not sure why Joe said anything about
2 procedures in there other than the fact that [inaudible]
3 came up with a resolution that said you need to revise the
4 procedures for whatever action you deem is necessary, then
5 that -- again, that is kind of guess, I am not sure why he
6 referred to procedures there.

7 Q Turn over to page 15.

8 A Okay.

9 Q There is another continuation page and it is
10 referring to the extent of the condition.

11 A Uh-huh. Yeah.

12 Q And there is some typed text there that talks
13 about the number of failed screws and the percent of total
14 population, and that percentage is .093 percent. And then
15 it says, it goes on to say that all ice baskets except one,
16 which was dropped during the ice loading, were lifted and
17 weighed without further incident.

18 Now, at the top of that text there is a
19 handwritten statement that says, "All the ice basket screws
20 are affected, however," and then it goes into the text
21 portion. Do you know who wrote that, or what that
22 significance of that statement is?

23 A No, I don't know who wrote that. I know that I
24 didn't write it, it is not my -- it is not my writing.

25 But --

1 Q Did you ever have a conversation with Mr. Overall
2 whether -- where he expressed concern that all the ice
3 baskets may or were in fact affected by these screws?

4 A Well, in essence, this statement is true in that
5 you are looking at the extent of condition would be that you
6 have got to resolve the issue in terms of what you do with
7 all of the screws. To me that is what that first sentence
8 means, is that all of the screws are affected by whatever
9 resolution you come up with in the CAQ. But it doesn't mean
10 to me, it doesn't mean that all of the screws had defects in
11 them, or all the screws were broken. It means that whatever
12 resolution you come up with may affect what you do with all
13 of the --

14 Q I know at the top of the continuation page there
15 is a note that says, "Entries made on this sheet must be
16 signed and dated." And my purpose for asking you that
17 question about any statements that Mr. Overall made would be
18 to try to determine whether Mr. Overall had penciled that in
19 or penned that in, with your concurrence -- with or without
20 your concurrence.

21 A He may have.

22 Q Okay. But you don't know that for a fact?

23 A I don't know it for a fact, no.

24 Q If you will turn over to page 17. Again, we are
25 referring to the adverse condition report. And there is a

1 Section C, as in Charlie, 7, and it asks whether or not the
2 hardware is affected. Can you tell me briefly what that
3 means when they ask you whether the hardware is affected in
4 a PER?

5 A The PER can be written on documentation as well as
6 the hardware in the plant, if it is written on something
7 like a procedure that has an incorrect statement in it, or
8 it is written on a drawing that has incorrect verbiage on
9 it, something like that, then it certainly wouldn't affect
10 hardware. If it does affect hardware in the plant, then you
11 check that.

12 Q All right. And under Section C-7 where it asks
13 whether the hardware is affected, it is checked yes. And
14 then immediately below that, it says, "if, yes, the method
15 of disposition," and there is a checkmark still within that
16 same general area, it says, "to be determined by corrective
17 action step" and then there is a blank, and there is a -- it
18 looks like that has been corrected. Do we agree that that
19 ends up to be three?

20 A Uh-huh.

21 Q Corrective action step 3 should determine what the
22 disposition would be?

23 A Right.

24 Q Okay. And then if you turn over to page 20, under
25 Section D, as in David, 1, down toward the bottom of that

1 section, it says, "if part C-7 is checked yes, final
2 disposition" and it is referring back to whether or not
3 hardware is affected. Under D-1, the box is checked "accept
4 as is" with an asterisk, and then below that the asterisk
5 makes a note that "Nuclear engineering, technical evaluation
6 required." And then it refers to evaluation document
7 W-as-in-whiskey-A-as-in-apple-T-as-in-Tom-dash-D-as-in-David
8 -dash-10048. And there are some initials and a date.

9 Do you recall whether that is the Westinghouse
10 evaluation?

11 A Yes, it is.

12 Q Regarding the ice basket screws?

13 A Yes.

14 Q So, to put these sections together, D-1 refers to
15 a Westinghouse document as the disposition on C-7 where the
16 hardware is affected, is that --

17 A Correct.

18 Q Is that correct?

19 A Correct.

20 Q And because of that document, am I -- is it
21 correct, am I correct in assuming that Westinghouse said to
22 go ahead and use the system, accept as is?

23 A Correct.

24 Q Okay. Okay. Do you have a copy of the
25 Westinghouse evaluation?

1 A The letter?

2 Q Uh-huh.

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay. And that is the letter from Mr. Iron, who
5 is the manager for Westinghouse at the TVA Watts Bar project
6 at the time, is that correct?

7 A Right.

8 Q And that is addressed to Mr. Elliott, who is
9 manager of engineering for TVA, and that is dated June 22nd,
10 1995. If you look on the second page, Section 2.0.

11 A Uh-huh.

12 Q It talks about the assessment program.

13 A Okay.

14 Q Who would -- well, let me back up a little bit.
15 Who would take a look at this Westinghouse evaluation on the
16 part of TVA and determine that that was adequate for closure
17 of the PER?

18 A Well, initially, myself, who would be responsible
19 for closure of the CAT [inaudible]. In addition to me, my
20 supervisor, the engineer manager or his representative would
21 also be involved in the closure. In this case, [inaudible]
22 would also look at it. R.E. Lewis, I think in this case Bob
23 Lewis was the one who would get it.

24 Primarily, technically, it would be myself and
25 James Adair and Joe Chen as well.

1 Q With some level of review?

2 A Right.

3 Q Some level of independent review?

4 A Right.

5 Q Okay. How -- or if you recall, how did
6 Westinghouse become aware of the ice basket screws? Do you
7 recall how they were notified of this?

8 A Yes, we called them. James and I called them and
9 I recall talking, as a matter of fact, to John Iron. One of
10 the most vivid recollections, as I told Ed, of this thing
11 was that I had asked John to help us with the thing. We had
12 told him what the issues were, and had asked him to evaluate
13 the ice condenser to see, based on what information we knew,
14 if this was an issue that would affect the safety-related
15 equipment, or if the ice baskets would actually jettison
16 from the ice bed.

17 And we called him back the day after, the next day
18 I called him back, and John told him in no uncertain times,
19 I didn't set his priorities, and that he hadn't -- he hadn't
20 completed the task yet, but he was working on it.

21 Q If you could look at page 18 of the PER.

22 A Okay.

23 Q I think that lists the corrective actions and your
24 signature is at the bottom of this. Am I correct --

25 A Yes.

1 Q -- that these are the corrective actions that you
2 and Mr. Adair put together?

3 A Right. Right.

4 Q Corrective action number 1 refers to having
5 technical support coordinate with site nuclear engineering,
6 which was your group, I think, is that correct, nuclear
7 engineering?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. And Central Laboratories to perform
10 metallurgical testing and evaluation of the failed ice
11 basket screws in determining the mode of failure. Now, we
12 can over step 3 -- 2 and go to step 3, and nuclear
13 engineering was to request Westinghouse to evaluate the data
14 collected from the corrective action numbers 1 and 2. So,
15 is it correct that, according to the corrective action
16 statement, that Westinghouse was supposed to, or would be
17 asked to look at the metallurgical testing that was referred
18 to in step 1?

19 A Right.

20 Q Okay. Have you reviewed the documents to the
21 point that, or do you recall that the Westinghouse report
22 did not refer to metallurgical testing?

23 A That's right.

24 Q Okay.

25 A I reviewed that, I know what you are saying is

1 true.

2 Q Okay. And as we talked the other night and we set
3 our interview up, I told you that that is kind of the
4 disconnect that we were trying to put together.

5 A Right.

6 Q Can you put that together for me?

7 A I can't, I don't know why they didn't respond
8 particularly to the -- specifically to the metallurgical
9 issue. I do know that the resolution showed that even had
10 the ice -- or even had the screws failed, that the ice
11 baskets wouldn't come out of the ice chest, so they would
12 only come up to something like 13-1/2 feet, I think. And
13 they wouldn't come out, they wouldn't damage the top deck
14 doors to the point that they wouldn't be functional. So, I
15 can only -- I can only make assumptions. The only thing
16 that they did, the only addressal of the first part of the
17 issue was that the number of screws that were taken out,
18 they did a probability evaluation. And they didn't really
19 address, as you say, the metallurgy part of it. And I am
20 not sure why, other than I could guess, I can make some
21 guesses.

22 Q What are you guessing? I would like --

23 A My guess is that it didn't matter. As long as you
24 can show that you have got a structure that is going to
25 remain in place and, you know, even if you had a failure of

1 the screws, you would still have a system that operates
2 safely and can shut down. If you have a loss of coolant
3 accident, you are going to shut down the whole plant anyway.
4 If you shut down the plant and the ice condenser still
5 operates as it was designed to operate, does it really
6 matter that the screws didn't perform their function as they
7 should have? As long as you show an alternate method of
8 resolving the rush of steam that comes through.

9 Q Let me put your memory to the test again.

10 A Okay.

11 Q Did you know that back then, back in 1995, when
12 this information was -- when this evaluation was requested
13 by Westinghouse, did you discuss this with anyone, or did
14 Mr. Adair come to you and say, well, even if something along
15 those lines, do you recall any conversations where --

16 A No.

17 Q -- you kind of diverted your request of
18 Westinghouse or anything along those lines?

19 A My emphasis -- I am a structural engineer, and my
20 emphasis, even -- you know, I was responsible for the
21 corrective actions, but my emphasis was to make sure that
22 whatever occurred, even in the worst scenario condition
23 which they postulated, even in the worst scenario, that the
24 ice condenser would still work as designed. And they showed
25 that.

1 I guess we never really discussed the issue of
2 them not addressing the metallurgical part of this,
3 [inaudible].

4 Q Are you aware now that the first metallurgical
5 report indicated there might be some manufacturing defects?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. Do you recall when you first became aware
8 of that?

9 A No, I don't recall.

10 Q Do you recall that you were ever aware of back in
11 the 1995 timeframe?

12 A No.

13 Q Did -- pardon me for continuing to ask the
14 question, but I would like to make sure that certain people
15 are -- I would like to just run through a list. Did Mr.
16 Overall ever discuss with you that there may have been
17 manufacturing defects on the screws?

18 A I don't recall. I don't recall if he did or not.
19 That is -- it is difficult for me to put together what I
20 know from reading this thing and what I remember from four
21 years, you know. And I know from reading the thing that if
22 I had known that there was a screw taken off of the shelf
23 that had never been in service and had a crack in it, I
24 would personally have known, yeah, there could have a
25 manufacturer's defect, I mean a crack in a screw that has

1 never been in service, you obviously know that that could be
2 a manufacturer's defect.

3 But I also read in the supplemental part of this
4 thing that they may not have taken screws off of the shelf,
5 you know, they don't show that they took any screws out of
6 storage. So we are not sure, the way I read it, and maybe I
7 am reading something into what Terry was saying in here, but
8 it sounded like they weren't even sure that they got screws
9 off of the shelf.

10 Q Okay. Let me go back just a minute. When did you
11 leave TVA?

12 A The end of '96.

13 Q Ninety-six. Okay. The basic question that is
14 coming out to you, and I am not sure how to ask it other
15 than just saying that you signed off on the CAR that said
16 step number 1 was to perform a metallurgical test, and then
17 Westinghouse would evaluate the data collected from that
18 corrective action step, which included the metallurgical
19 examination. Did anybody ever catch that, that that had not
20 happened?

21 A That --

22 Q Did anybody -- yeah, okay, let me make sure you
23 understand the question.

24 A Okay.

25 Q I understand from reading the corrective action

1 report that the metallurgy people were supposed to take a
2 look at the screws, provide a report. That report was
3 supposed to be provided to Westinghouse for evaluation
4 according to the corrective action steps that you and Mr.
5 Adair put together. When did you realize that that had not
6 happened?

7 A That they never addressed the metallurgy?

8 Q Right.

9 A Before I knew -- when you told me.

10 Q Okay. We have got -- you have got a review
11 process, so that when you sign off on a CAR, --

12 A Right.

13 Q -- it goes, other people talk a look at it. Did
14 nobody ever catch this?

15 A Not to my knowledge. We -- actually, we fought
16 good about the resolution of the PER in that we showed that
17 the ice condenser was functioning even in the worst scenario
18 condition of the screws being missing. I don't recall
19 anyone ever suggesting that we go back to Westinghouse and
20 get something more out of them. I mean -- and, again, I
21 don't know that there is anything in the metallurgy report
22 that would help you resolve the issue, because I am not a
23 metallurgist.

24 Q Well, what I am getting at is that you have the
25 corrective action steps, and that wasn't -- apparently was

1 not followed, but yet several people signed off on it. And
2 you know, even a layman such as myself, you have only got
3 four steps there and one of the four just was not followed.
4 And what I am asking you is whether Mr. Adair ever discussed
5 that with you, whether that was not important, or did any of
6 the other reviewers discuss the importance of whether you
7 needed to go back to Westinghouse?

8 A No.

9 Q Okay. On page 18 that we are looking at there, it
10 appears that there are several acronyms, and I think we
11 covered this a while ago as to what that stands for. WBO?

12 A Evidently, that was technical support, since they
13 were supposed to be the coordinator.

14 Q Okay. So those are actually acronyms instead of
15 initials for employees?

16 A The CCO is the initial for an employee.

17 Q Okay. KEC mean anything to you?

18 A No. I don't know who it is.

19 Q And LAK would be you?

20 A Right.

21 Q Now, with the acronym WBT and LCE, which is I
22 think you said lead civil engineer?

23 A Right.

24 Q And then with your initials there, does that mean
25 that you own that responsibility?

1 A Actually, it means the lead civil engineer, which
2 was Adair, owns it, and then I was assigned by Adair to
3 resolve it.

4 Q Okay.

5 MR. BIGLUICCI: Larry, if you go back, Gary
6 mentioned a core piece [inaudible] reference there to WBO
7 dash [inaudible].

8 THE INTERVIEWEE: Right.

9 MR. BIGLUICCI: I am presuming that is the same
10 WBO as [inaudible]?

11 THE INTERVIEWEE: Right. Yes. It is probably
12 tech -- it is the same. And that is probably technical
13 support, since that is what it says in the first step.

14 MR. BIGLUICCI: Then there is WBT, LTE -- WBO and
15 it says 2 WBT-LTE and then you have a number 3. WBT-LTE
16 LAK.

17 THE INTERVIEWEE: Uh-huh.

18 MR. BIGLUICCI: Initials [inaudible].

19 THE INTERVIEWEE: Right.

20 MR. BIGLUICCI: I presume that is the same?

21 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes. WBO and MSS on page 6 is
22 the same as the first step as a corrective action. They
23 just didn't put the CCO in the end of it. Actually, I don't
24 know, I started to say it looks like our [inaudible], but I
25 am not sure about that. I wrote the LAK it looks like on

1 that page 6. I am not sure I wrote the rest of it.

2 BY MR. CLAXTON:

3 Q I think for our purposes as we know that as LAK
4 refers to you and CCO, we would agree, probably refers to
5 Curtis Overall.

6 A Okay. Yeah, probably does.

7 Q All right. On page 21, I think we have already
8 covered this with the last question, I think you have pretty
9 much covered this. This appears to be a corrective action
10 completion verification. And if I understand this
11 correctly, and correct me if I am wrong, you have listed
12 each one of the corrective action steps and then how that
13 corrective action step has been completed, or that you --
14 someone has verified, -- well, you do, you have signed it at
15 the bottom.

16 Can you tell me a little bit about what this is?
17 I assume that is what it is, but can you describe for me
18 what this actually, this sheet actually tells you?

19 A That is exactly what it is. For each corrective
20 action, as we talked about earlier, there should be some
21 retrievable document that is evidence that you did close it
22 by doing whatever that retrievable document says that you
23 did.

24 Q All right. Down toward the bottom of the page, it
25 says corrective action step 3, and it says NE, and I think

1 we agree that refers to nuclear engineering, to request
2 Westinghouse to evaluate the data collected from corrective
3 actions numbers 1 and 2, and that is what we just talked
4 about a few minutes ago. And then the corrective action
5 step number 3 states, "As evident from Westinghouse letter,"
6 and then it gives the identification for that letter,
7 "Westinghouse evaluated the broken ice basket screws and
8 determined that the ice condenser may be considerable
9 operable for the defined deviations."

10 And I will just have to ask you again, can you
11 reconcile that corrective action statement with the
12 corrective action statement verification?

13 A I can't reconcile that they -- obviously, in the
14 report or in that REMS document, they didn't address the
15 metallurgical report. So, the only -- what they did resolve
16 with that report was that the ice condenser was going to
17 remain operable because of these events. That was what we
18 were trying to show, if it was operable or it was
19 inoperable. And it was decided the best way to show that
20 was with a structural evaluation.

21 MR. CLAXTON: Why don't we go off the record for
22 just a minute?

23 THE INTERVIEWEE: Okay.

24 [Recess.]

25 MR. CLAXTON: We are back on the record at 6:08

1 p.m. with the same parties present.

2 BY MR. CLAXTON:

3 Q And what I would like to do is continue with the
4 questioning regarding the corrective actions and the
5 corrective action verification, and go through and ask you
6 whether you discussed with Mr. Adair the issue of the
7 magnitude of all these screws. In other words, if you had
8 to stop the construction process, did he have any input as
9 to whether that would be a problem, or did you discuss --

10 A Everyone knew that if we had to, that we had to go
11 in there and replace the screws. I mean if this issue came
12 out that you have got a defective ice condenser, then
13 everyone knew that. I mean it was probably mentioned. I
14 mean I -- I can imagine that I mentioned it. If the issue
15 turned out to be that we have got an ice condenser that
16 won't operate during a loss of coolant accident, then it is
17 something that would have to be done.

18 So, I was aware of the magnitude of the issue.
19 And I am sure it was discussed amongst people. There was no
20 pressure to resolve it one way or the other. I mean there
21 was only the issue of resolving it. Let's find out what
22 caused the failure, if we can't find out what caused it,
23 let's make sure that the ice condenser will function if we
24 have a loss of coolant accident.

25 Q Now, that is kind of a rhetorical statement. Did

1 that come out from an individual in a meeting, or was that
2 just kind of a general feeling of the crew?

3 A That was just the general feeling.

4 Q That was the direction you felt?

5 A Right. That was not -- those are not the words of
6 somebody else.

7 Q Okay. On page 22, this is Section D-2, nuclear
8 assurance statement. What is a nuclear assurance statement,
9 what is the purpose of that?

10 A I think this says that we reviewed this thing for
11 closure. Tom McCollum signed off that he had reviewed the
12 closure documentation.

13 Q Okay. Is that McCollum, M-c-C-o-l-l-u-m?

14 A Right.

15 Q Okay.

16 A That he had reviewed the closure documentation and
17 found it to be in order.

18 Q Did you discuss this with Mr. McCollum at any
19 time?

20 A I took -- I am sure that I was -- Joe Chen or
21 [inaudible] one, and I don't recall which, took the package
22 to Tom McCollum, gave him a copy of the package, said here
23 it is, please review it. If you have problems, bring this
24 back if he did. Some of these handwritten things that you
25 find in the body of the document may have in fact been

1 written in that process. The question you asked on page 15,
2 it should have been initialed by whomever wrote it, but that
3 may have happened during that time. I don't know that
4 Curtis added that to it, I don't know that Tom added it to
5 it. But during that process, that is when you got some of
6 the handwritten information that was put in there.

7 Q That being the nuclear assurance review?

8 A Right.

9 Q Okay. And what does Mr. McCollum do?

10 A Right now --

11 Q Or what did he do at that time?

12 A At that time he worked for the group that was the
13 closure group. They reviewed closures to make certain that
14 the closure documentation was in place and that in fact you
15 had what you needed to close the CAQ.

16 Q And, again, I would like to ask you if you know
17 about any discussions you may have had with him regarding
18 point 3 on that page. It is on page 22. It is regarding
19 nuclear engineering to request Westinghouse to evaluate the
20 data collected from corrective action steps number 1 and 2.

21 A I don't think we had any discussion on that, in
22 that regard. I mean I think what he did is reviewed the
23 documentation, found it to be acceptable and signed off on
24 it.

25 Q Okay. In the last paragraph it states, "No field

1 inspection performed for closure of this PER. Ice baskets
2 are inaccessible." That may be self-explanatory. But when
3 you say no field inspection performed, would you normally do
4 a field inspection?

5 A Yes. Right. Normally, if you have corrective
6 actions, for instance, you have a corrective action that
7 says there is a arc strike on a plate. You go out and
8 repair the arc strike, and then when you close the PER,
9 somebody in this group that Tom McCollum was in would go in
10 the field and ensure that that arc strike has been ground
11 out and has been repaired. So in this case, since that
12 wasn't the case, that statement had to be added.

13 Q Okay. And then it states, the last sentence says,
14 "Review performed in accordance with management direction."
15 What does that refer to, what does that tell you? I am not
16 sure what review is referring to?

17 A Oh, his review of the closure.

18 Q Okay.

19 A I don't know what his management direction was.

20 Q All right. If you turn over to page 23, this is
21 the corrective action completion verification for step 4,
22 and that step instructed nuclear engineering to issue a DCN
23 or design change notice, is that correct?

24 A Right, design change notice.

25 Q To document Westinghouse evaluation and results

1 for acceptable existing conditions, and to revise
2 implementing procedures as necessary. And then the
3 verification, there is a statement in parentheses within
4 that corrective action statement that says, "The determined
5 cause of this condition was the long duration of a
6 repetitive task." Do you know what the basis for that
7 statement -- do you recall where that came from?

8 A That came, as I recall, from Curtis Overall's
9 initial -- I don't know what you call it, causal effect or
10 whatever he called it, on page 10. "Due to large amount of
11 screws to install, the long duration of this repetitive
12 task, it is technical support's view that the apparent cause
13 of this event was attributed from the [inaudible]
14 over-tightening of these screws."

15 Q Okay. So this basically was the initial statement
16 by Curtis Overall.

17 A Right.

18 Q Who completed or who initiated the PBO?

19 A Right. The cause of the fracture analysis.

20 Q Okay. Let's jump up to page 58. And it appears
21 that this is the actual design change notice.

22 A Uh-huh.

23 Q And there is a DCN number 37159-A as in apple.
24 Can you tell me a little bit about this DCN and what the
25 purpose of it was? It appears that it is --

1 A Yeah. There are different types of DCNs. I
2 discussed this some I know yesterday with Tom and Ed.
3 Typically, DCNs, and I got to thinking about this more this
4 morning -- typically, DCNs are issued for -- the primary
5 purpose is to make a change in the plant, but there are --
6 in this case, this is an S-DCN, the DCN type, which was a
7 document that transmitted information, and that is what this
8 did. Because it is more retrievable document than, for
9 instance, a memo, even though a memo is retrievable, there
10 was always a feeling that a DCN was like a plant document,
11 could not be destroyed, had to remain at the plant for the
12 life of the plant. This could always be retrieved, so the
13 S-DCN we felt was the way to document the resolution.

14 Q And that resolution, once again, the technical
15 evaluation from Westinghouse?

16 A Right. Yes.

17 Q Let me see -- I would like to make sure that that
18 is what the DCN says. I think it says here somewhere, but I
19 think it refers to the report from Westinghouse.

20 A Right. On page 63.

21 Q Okay. That is still part of the DCN?

22 A Right.

23 Q And that heading is titled, "Problem Solution" and
24 it states that the identified problem has been evaluated by
25 Westinghouse, as documented in their letter TVA, and that

1 correspondence verifies that this problem will not impair
2 the ice basket structural integrity to an unacceptable level
3 and that no corrective action is required. And the DCN is
4 signed in block number 15 as having been reviewed by James
5 G. Adair, and there are several other signatures, including
6 yours, the design verifier, in block number 22. I'm sorry,
7 page 58.

8 A Okay.

9 Q I'm sorry.

10 A Okay.

11 Q And I think I understand you to say that the
12 design change notice makes permanent, more permanent --

13 A Right.

14 Q -- the actions that engineering took.

15 A Right.

16 Q Okay.

17 A The TE value, that is Charlie Allen.

18 Q Where is that? I'm sorry.

19 A His signature.

20 Q Okay, I see. Slot number 17?

21 A Yes.

22 Q What does TE stand for?

23 A Technical engineer, I believe.

24 Q Okay. On page 61, which this is still within the
25 DCN, there are several checked blocks for whether or not

1 this issue is safety-related. And on page 61, block number
2 4, this checks that this issue apparently was not
3 safety-related. Who would have checked that? Let me ask
4 you two questions. Do you know who would have checked it
5 and do you know what the basis of that would be?

6 A That would have been the preparer, which in this
7 case was Charles Allen.

8 Q Okay. I am going to jump up to page 73. Now, not
9 being familiar with some, the CAR procedures, and what all
10 that includes, can you tell me what this appendix -- this is
11 headed "Appendix E-" as in Edward dash "1." There was some
12 more heading information there.

13 A Right.

14 Q And my question eventually will be regarding Roman
15 numeral I, where it asks, if the deficiency -- is the
16 deficiency associated with a quality-related or
17 safety-related component, and it is checked yes. And I
18 wonder if you can help me out, to understand whether there
19 is a contradiction there between that particular appendix
20 and the design change notice -- or the design change notice
21 notes that there is no -- or that the activity is not
22 safety-related and this appendix notes that it is
23 safety-related. And let me count back up. First of all, I
24 ask you what is this appendix, what does it refer to, if you
25 know?

1 A Yeah, it is as to whether you report the finding
2 as a report of a deficiency and nuclear engineering does
3 that reportability verification, and they have got -- they
4 have a checklist that they screen it for in order to
5 determine if it is potentially reportable.

6 Now, it does affect a safety-related component,
7 but then in the second part of it, it determines that the
8 safety-related component could meet its intended function.

9 Q And I think I told you before the interview
10 started that a lot of these questions will be just you
11 helping me understand what some of these are.

12 A Right. Right.

13 Q Is there any contradiction or is there any tension
14 there between Appendix E-1 --

15 A No.

16 Q -- and the block --

17 A I don't think there is.

18 Q -- on page 61 that says it is not safety-related?

19 A No, I don't think there is. I mean it affects a
20 safety-related piece of equipment, but because the
21 safety-related piece of equipment operates, then there is no
22 nuclear safety issue.

23 Q All right. Now, how about on page -- keep your
24 finger there and let's jump up to page 89.

25 A Keep it on 73 and --

1 Q Yeah.

2 A Okay. Okay.

3 Q And page 89 is an Attachment A, and I am not sure
4 what that is Attachment A to. And down in Section 9, it
5 states that Westinghouse has evaluated the condition and has
6 determined that the condition is not safety significant and
7 would not affect operability. Is there a difference between
8 safety significance and safety-related in the verbiage they
9 are using there?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. Can you clarify that for me?

12 A I'll try.

13 Q Okay. Twenty-five words or less.

14 A Yeah. My understanding is anything that is
15 safety-related is something that -- whose failure could
16 affect the function to shut down, safely shut down the
17 system such that there is no release of radioactivity.
18 Okay. That is a safety-related piece of equipment. There
19 are also safety-related pieces of equipment whose failure
20 may impinge upon safety-related equipment, and by doing so,
21 make those safety-related pieces of equipment fail. That is
22 safety-related.

23 Now, safety significant means to me that they have
24 shown that there is no safety significance because there was
25 no failure of that safety-related system. So there is no

1 safety significance.

2 Q Okay. So this many years after this has been
3 written, when you reread it, do you have any problem with
4 one check box saying, yes, it is safety-related, and other
5 check box saying it is not safety-related? Do you see
6 any --

7 A No.

8 Q Okay. Okay. On page 74, there are two
9 handwritten notes, apparently -- is that first one, your
10 initials?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Did you write that?

13 A I did.

14 Q Okay. The second one looks like Walt Lewellyn.

15 A Yes.

16 Q Is that L-e-w-e-l-l-y-n?

17 A Right.

18 Q Okay. Can you tell me what these notes refer to?

19 A This was used in -- I am not real sure why it
20 doesn't show this as an attachment or another sheet. This
21 is the evaluation for the potential reportability. But this
22 was used in Walt's evaluation of the reportability of the
23 issue. And what I wrote was what Westinghouse had found.
24 What Walt wrote, and I mean what he wrote is intuitively
25 obvious, that there is no seismic issue with the horizontal

1 movement of the baskets, but I am not -- I am not sure why
2 he wrote it, but that is what he was writing. In other
3 words, the baskets can't come out of the rack [inaudible].

4 Q Okay. And the note that you wrote, you referred
5 to a Westinghouse preliminary analysis.

6 A Uh-huh.

7 Q Was that something other than the letter that they
8 sent, was this the result of a telephone call?

9 A They probably had sent us a piece of paper that
10 hadn't been issued, and maybe it was the same piece of paper
11 that finally got issued, I am not sure. But either a piece
12 of paper or just in conversation, I am not sure what -- what
13 documentation that is. Obviously, we had talked with them
14 and they had said that. Now, whether we had a piece of
15 paper that wasn't issued yet, I am not sure.

16 It is hard to imagine that I would have quoted
17 numbers and the height and the movement of the baskets
18 without having seen something in writing to that effect.

19 Q I noticed on the REMS, on the document that we are
20 looking at, apparently that was issued on June 20th, 1995.
21 And it was also signed by Walt Lewellyn on June 20th, 1995,
22 even though it is not dated by you on your handwritten note.

23 A Correct.

24 Q The letter issued by Westinghouse, or the report
25 issued by Westinghouse was dated June 22nd, 1995.

1 A Correct.

2 Q So, would that indicate to you that probably you
3 got a phone call, or a fax or something along those lines --

4 A Probably. Right. Yes.

5 Q -- before you received it in the mail?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. What I wanted to clarify was that there was
8 not another report or not something else that we haven't
9 seen yet?

10 A No. No.

11 Q Okay.

12 A That was referring to what they had done and what
13 information we had in terms of that final report.

14 Q Okay. On page 77, apparently this is another
15 continuation page for the PER regarding generic review. Can
16 you tell me what a generic review is? On this page it says,
17 "generic review required." Can you explain what this page
18 is trying to tell us?

19 A Anytime that you find a condition that is adverse
20 to quality, you are required by procedures, at that time I
21 am sure it is still the same, to let the other plants know
22 that, yeah, we found this condition and you may have this
23 same condition. So if it is a generic type condition, or
24 potentially generic condition, then you inform the other
25 plants and ask that it be checked to see if they have the

1 same condition. And they may follow up with a CAQ, and many
2 times they have followed up with a nonconforming condition
3 of their own.

4 Q And on this particular continuation page regarding
5 generic review, it says that SQN, and does that refer to
6 Sequoia?

7 A Right.

8 Q Sequoia Nuclear Plant is only other TVA ice
9 condenser plant affected. And then there is a handwritten
10 note below that that says, "This PER has been reevaluated
11 against SCAR" -- that's S-C-A-R -- "criteria and found to
12 remain a PER." And, again, it looks like the initials of
13 Joseph Chen, Joe Chen?

14 A It is Joe Chen, I don't think it is Joseph.

15 Q Okay. Dated 7/21/97. Can you tell me what that
16 handwritten note means? Do you understand what that is?

17 A Yeah, I do. The procedure required any PER to be
18 evaluated. PER is -- there are certain things that you have
19 got to do for a PER that will resolve it, certain things you
20 have got to do for a SCAR to resolve it. The first thing
21 you got to do with a PER is you have got to evaluate it and
22 make sure that it is not a SCAR, and there are, in the
23 procedure there are steps 1, 2, 3, 4 and so forth, that you
24 look at to see if it meets the criteria of a SCAR. And that
25 is what he did, he went through the procedure, he went

1 through those steps and evaluated those steps and found that
2 it didn't meet the intent of the SCAR, that it still should
3 remain a PER.

4 Q That threw me off a little bit about how that
5 relates to a generic review.

6 A Me, too. I am not sure why it is on that page.
7 That is not germane to a generic review.

8 Q Okay. That answers my question, because I
9 couldn't figure it out either.

10 MR. CLAXTON: Why don't we go off the record for a
11 few minutes? I think we are about to finish up.

12 Ed, if you all would like to talk for a while.

13 MR. BIGLUICCI: Yes. Fine.

14 MR. CLAXTON: Okay. We will be off the record at
15 6:35 p.m.

16 [Recess.]

17 MR. CLAXTON: We are back on the record at 6:42
18 p.m. with the same parties present.

19 BY MR. CLAXTON:

20 Q And Mr. Katcham, I have just got two questions I
21 would like to finish up with. One is on the corrective
22 action report, can you tell from that who would have
23 reviewed the verification? In other words, you told me
24 earlier that there was somewhat of a review process once you
25 had completed it. Can you tell, are there any signatures,

1 or can you list out who would have approved the findings or
2 the verification on that?

3 A . Yeah. On page 20, there is a closure verification
4 and that is where R.E. Lewis, Bob Lewis, had reviewed the
5 closure documentation and James Adair signed for the
6 engineering manager.

7 MR. BIGLUICCI: WLE is that Walt Elliott?

8 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes, Walt Elliott.

9 BY MR. CLAXTON:

10 Q Okay. So Mr. Adair signed for Mr. Elliott?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And what -- well, what was Mr. Elliott's position?

13 A Mr. Elliott was the engineer manager. James Adair
14 was the civil lead. They had three discipline leads and
15 when Mr. Elliott wasn't available for a signature document
16 such as this, he would designate only a limited number of
17 people to sign for him. In this case, obviously, James was
18 the designee.

19 Q Okay. Now, at the very top, under "closure
20 approvals," the first name I see is "Preparer, L.E. Perry."
21 Who is Mr. Perry?

22 A That is Ed Perry, [inaudible] Ed Perry. What he
23 did was prepared the closure documentation, got together the
24 closure documentation and Ed at that time worked for me.

25 Q Okay. Is that more of an administrative

1 function --

2 A Right.

3 Q -- rather than an approval function?

4 A Right. Right.

5 Q Okay. And then going all the way down,

6 "Correction, action, administrator, D." as in David

7 "Miller."

8 A Right.

9 Q What was his role here?

10 A I don't know.

11 Q Do you know him?

12 A No.

13 Q Okay. I think that is all I have. Do you have
14 any questions about what we have talked about, or anything
15 you would like to clarify?

16 A One thing I guess I just need to emphasize, and
17 maybe I didn't emphasize it enough as we were going through
18 it, was that during the resolution of the PER, some of the
19 questions that we talked about, questions and answers that
20 we talked about, it seemed the emphasis was did somebody
21 direct me to forget about the metallurgical report and get
22 this thing resolved quickly or as cheaply possible, and no
23 one ever did. I mean I wanted to resolve the thing and make
24 sure that there was no safety significance or there was no
25 safety function that was compromised.

1 No one ever said forget about the metallurgical
2 report because it may lead to something nasty. That was
3 never said. I mean that wasn't the environment we worked in
4 at the time. It was never the environment, but it certainly
5 wasn't the environment at the time. I mean at the time we
6 wanted to make -- maybe I shouldn't say at the time. We
7 wanted to make sure that we resolved the issue technically,
8 and we wanted to make sure that we resolved the issue
9 fairly. No one -- no one ever coerced anyone as far as I
10 know to do one thing or the other.

11 Q To follow up on that a little bit, I normally
12 don't share with a witness what someone else has said, but I
13 think this is very germane in what you are saying, the fact
14 -- or what Mr. Adair was telling me was that, yes, he
15 considered the fact that there were possible manufacturing
16 defects very significant, but that kind of ended it. Okay.
17 What is the next step? Well, nothing was done about that
18 knowledge that he had, he admitted, or he acknowledged that
19 he read the first report which plainly set forth the fact
20 that there were possible manufacturing defects. And he
21 brought up the issue to Mr. Woods that there were some
22 problems with the report, he would like the lab to take a
23 look at it, which they did. And there were some other areas
24 that were not very objective, somewhat conjectural, and
25 those were cleaned up. But at the same time, the

1 information about the manufacturing defects did not appear
2 in the second report.

3 And my question to you is, did you ever discuss
4 that with Mr. Adair and were you aware that there was a
5 report regarding manufacturing defects?

6 A I was aware that there was a first report and to
7 this end, I don't recall if I ever read the report. No, I
8 did not ever discuss, specifically that I recall,
9 manufacturing defects with James. Again, I don't recall if
10 we did, I don't remember it.

11 MR. CLAXTON: Ed, do you have anything you would
12 like to ask?

13 MR. BIGLUICCI: No, I don't, Gary.

14 MR. CLAXTON: Okay.

15 BY MR. CLAXTON:

16 Q Do you have anything else you would like to ask or
17 clarify?

18 A No.

19 Q Okay. I would like to -- I'm sorry, go ahead.

20 A No, I don't think so.

21 Q Okay. I would like to ask you if you have
22 provided all of this information freely and voluntarily?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And I would also like to ask you whether either
25 myself or any other NRC employee has threatened you or

1 promised you anything in any way regarding this interview?

2 A No.

3 MR. CLAXTON: Okay. With that, we will conclude
4 the interview at 6:50 p.m.

5 [Whereupon, at 6:50 p.m., the interview was
6 concluded.]

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CERTIFICATE

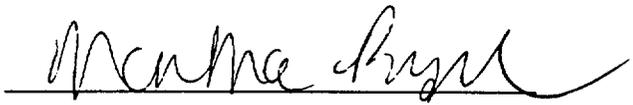
This is to certify that the attached proceedings before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the matter of:

Name of Proceeding: INTERVIEW OF
LARRY KATCHAM
(CLOSED)

Docket Number: 2-1998-023

Place of Proceeding: Knoxville, 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.