

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW

To: File 1-2004-002

From: Jeff Teator, OI:RI

(Handwritten initials)

Subject: Interview of Van FORD

Date: June 3, 2004

On May 20, 2004, the reporting agent re-interviewed Van FORD regarding potential deliberate violation of technical specification required plant operating procedure by [REDACTED] (OI Case No. 1-2004-002).

The interview was conducted in a Human Resources Department conference room, in Building TB2 at the Salem/Hope Creek Generating Stations, Hancock's Bridge, NJ.

FORD was re-interviewed based upon OI's review of notes of interviews conducted by the licensee's ECP Investigator, Tom LAKE. LAKE interviewed a number of individuals (including FORD) in October 2002 regarding the issue. LAKE's notes of that interview indicate that FORD told LAKE "... while this was going on [REDACTED] came to me and said going to shut valve." The basis for opening the investigation was that [REDACTED] willfully operated a valve to isolate a steam leak involving main steam feedwater without the required approval of the operations staff [FORD], contrary to the licensee's Conduct of Operations procedure.

FORD indicated that he does not recall what he told LAKE. What FORD told OI was his "best memory," at this time, but what he told LAKE back in October 2002 (shortly after the incident) may have been more accurate than the information he provided to OI.

FORD said that he recall [REDACTED] "whisper[ed] in his ear" during the control room briefing that he was either going to close the valve or look to see if it could be closed. FORD believes that in [REDACTED] mind, [REDACTED] told him that he was going to close the valve, but FORD did not receive it that way and was surprised to find that [REDACTED] had shut the valve. FORD stated that the communication he had with [REDACTED] was not in accordance with normal control room communications procedures and practices, and admits that their communication could have been better. FORD maintains that it was unclear to him whether [REDACTED] was going to shut the valve or further assess the situation.

FORD said that [REDACTED] would never deliberately violate a procedure, including a conduct of operations procedure. To FORD, "... it is clear that [REDACTED] did not violate the abnormal operating procedure and he [FORD] never meant to make that allegation [to OI]."

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TC*

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