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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

INTERVIEW

-----x

IN THE MATTER OF: :Docket No.
INTERVIEW OF : (not provided)
BILL WHITE :
(CLOSED) :

-----x

Friday, August 27, 2004

1st Floor Conference Room
TB-2 Building
Salem Hope Creek
Hancocks Bridge, New Jersey

The above-entitled interview was conducted
at 10:08 a.m.

BEFORE:

Senior Special Agent JEFFREY TEATOR

Information in this record was deleted
in accordance with the Freedom of Information
Act, exemptions 7C

FOIA 14-002-2005-194

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

10:08 a.m.

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3 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Today's date is
4 August 27, the year is 2004. My name is Jeffrey
5 Teator, I'm a Senior Special Agent with the United
6 States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of
7 Investigations.

8 This morning I'm interviewing Mr. Bill
9 White. It's approximately 10:08 on Friday morning and
10 the interview is taking place in the 1st floor
11 conference room in the TB-2 Building at Salem Hope
12 Creek Nuclear Generating Station, Hancocks Bridge, New
13 Jersey.

14 Mr. White, prior to going on the record,
15 did I present you with my credentials?

16 MR. WHITE: Yes you did.

17 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: And this is a
18 voluntary interview today. Knowing it's voluntary, do
19 you wish to go forward?

20 MR. WHITE: I understand it's voluntary
21 and I have no problem with going forward.

22 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay. Thank
23 you. Do you have any objection this morning to
24 providing sworn testimony?

25 MR. WHITE: No I do not.

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1 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Would you
2 raise your right hand for me, please? Bill White, do
3 you swear that the information that you are about to
4 provide to me is the truth, the whole truth and
5 nothing but the truth?

6 MR. WHITE: I do.

7 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Thanks. Mr.
8 White, you are being interviewed this morning as a
9 witness in an investigation I'm conducting into the
10 closing of the 22MS42 valve at Salem, and the event
11 occurred on September 21, 2002. You were the control
12 room supervisor on duty that night, is that correct?

13 MR. WHITE: That is correct, yes.

14 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: And as the CRS,
15 what were your responsibilities?

16 MR. WHITE: Well, my responsibilities was
17 for direct command and control of the Salem Unit 2, in
18 this case the valve was in Salem Unit 2, and so that
19 was my responsibility that night and I was in charge.
20 As a matter of fact, I had just briefed the shutdown
21 I think when the valve got closed.

22 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: All right.
23 We're going to come back to that, again I just wanted
24 to get what your job title was and your responsibility
25 on the record.

1 MR. WHITE: Sure.

2 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: While we're
3 there still, who was the shift manager, do you
4 remember?

5 MR. WHITE: Yes. Van Ford was my shift
6 manager, he was the normal, the guy that I worked for
7 on Bravo shift. I'm not on that shift anymore but at
8 the time he was my shift manager. And I think the
9 other person involved was [REDACTED] who was my [REDACTED] 7C
10 shift, he's the [REDACTED] for anything that has to do with
11 operating the plant.

12 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right. Do you
13 remember who the reactor operators were on Unit 2 that
14 night? I know the log would show that.

15 MR. WHITE: You know, I don't remember who
16 it was. I'm sure the log would show. I believe that
17 Rick Feffer was one of the guys because I think he'd
18 said something about that you guys had interviewed him
19 previously. He went for an interview, I don't know
20 what the details were, but he said one time that --

21 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Fairly recent?

22 MR. WHITE: A week or two ago.

23 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay.

24 MR. WHITE: Yeah, I think it was over at
25 NOSF. So I think he might have been one of the, to

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1 tell you the truth I don't remember who. I guess I
2 could have gone back and looked, I don't remember who
3 the RO and PO were that night.

4 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: All right. PO
5 would be plant operator?

6 MR. WHITE: Plant operator, right. Right,
7 reactor operator and plant operator is the separate
8 watch stations. I don't remember who was who. I'm
9 pretty sure Rick was one of the guys, he's one of the
10 Bravo shift guys that usually he worked directly for
11 me.

12 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Your normal
13 shift manager was Van Ford then?

14 MR. WHITE: Right.

15 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: And Rick was
16 one of the normal ROs working under you at that time?

17 MR. WHITE: Right. Well he kind of
18 reported, you know, our chain of command he reported
19 to me directly, he just happened to be working in our
20 unit that night, I know him very well since I've --
21 well he's RO over the last several years.

22 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: The control
23 rooms are shared, Salem 1 and 2, is that correct?

24 MR. WHITE: That's correct.

25 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Is there a CRS

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1 also on the Unit 2 side?

2 MR. WHITE: Well I was on Unit 2.

3 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: I mean Unit 1
4 side.

5 MR. WHITE: The Unit 1 side, yes, and who
6 that was I don't remember either.

7 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: And they'd have
8 a full complement on that side also?

9 MR. WHITE: Yes, it would have been like
10 Mike Walker or one of the other guys that, let me
11 think who the other guys were. That shift's all
12 broken up now, we're all on different, all over the
13 place.

14 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: How about a
15 shift manager, would there be a shift manager in Unit
16 1 also?

17 MR. WHITE: No.

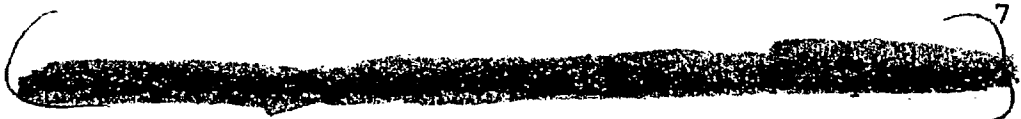
18 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: So Van had both
19 units?

20 MR. WHITE: Van is the shift manager for
21 both shifts.

22 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay. All
23 right. Get some biographical information, can you give
24 me your date and place of birth please?

25 MR. WHITE: Yes. I was born in let's see,

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SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Where's that near?

MR. WHITE: It's near Latrobe. Most people know that because of the golfing industry. But it's just a little further up in the foothills.

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: And Stroh's beer, isn't that made in Latrobe?

MR. WHITE: Rolling Rock beer.

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: I'm sorry, Rolling Rock.

MR. WHITE: Yes, my best friend from high school the brewery's in his backyard as a matter of fact.

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Is it?

MR. WHITE: Yes it is.

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Does he work there?

MR. WHITE: No, he's a draughtsman; he's been since we were in school.

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: That would be a nice little commute to walk to work from there.

MR. WHITE: Oh yes.

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Social Security number please?

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MR. WHITE: Yes. [REDACTED]

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: And your home address?

MR. WHITE: Currently, it's [REDACTED]

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Zip?

MR. WHITE: [REDACTED]

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Home phone number please?

MR. WHITE: It's area code, wait a minute let me think, I've got to be careful because I have a house in [REDACTED] too [REDACTED]

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Where's your house in [REDACTED]

MR. WHITE: [REDACTED] just east of the sub base at Groton.

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Yeah, I'm going to be up there Monday, up at Millstone.

MR. WHITE: Oh really?

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Millstone's right down the road from there.

MR. WHITE: Yeah I know, I've thought about sending a resume up there many times.

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Oh yeah?

MR. WHITE: I moved down here when I got

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1 this job here, but I still have my house up there.

2 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right. It's
3 pretty up there. I like it.

4 MR. WHITE: It certainly is. I just came
5 back two days ago as a matter of fact, I was up there
6 staining my, doing my deck, biannual work.

7 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Yeah, being a
8 homeowner there's always a lot going on maintenance.

9 MR. WHITE: Oh yes, especially if you live
10 250 miles away from it.

11 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right. Is your
12 house near the shore, near the water?

13 MR. WHITE: No, it's about ten miles in.

14 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay. that
15 makes it a little bit --

16 MR. WHITE: Yeah, I live on the cheap side
17 of the town. Close to the shore is more expensive.

18 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: So then you
19 were in the [REDACTED] is that correct?

20 MR. WHITE: Correct.

21 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: And what years
22 did you serve in the [REDACTED]

23 MR. WHITE: [REDACTED]

24 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Rank and rating
25 upon discharge?

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MR. WHITE: I was [REDACTED]

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay. And
(nuclear qualified?)

MR. WHITE: Yes.

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: (Subs or surface?)

MR. WHITE: (Submarines)

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: (Subs.)

MR. WHITE: And when I [REDACTED] I was the
(deputy commander at squadron two.)

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Is that out of

--

MR. WHITE: (Groton.)

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: (Groton?)

MR. WHITE: Hmmm-hmmm. (I was the staff
nuke.)

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: What was the
name of the (deputy commander of submarine squadron
two.)

MR. WHITE: (Squad 2.)

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Because we have
some guys in the region who are on that (sub base) up
there. Used to be when they were the [REDACTED] squad two.)

MR. WHITE: Right. Okay. I'm sure you
do. As a matter of fact, you almost had me one time.
The day after I accepted my position here they called

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1 me to go for an interview at the NRC.

2 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Did they?
3 Okay. Well we almost got you.

4 MR. WHITE: Too late.

5 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: All right.
6 Have you attended college?

7 MR. WHITE: Yes. ~~(Penn State)~~

8 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: ~~(Penn State)~~
9 what type of degree?

10 MR. WHITE: ~~(Electrical engineering)~~

11 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: What year?

12 MR. WHITE: ~~()~~

13 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: BS?

14 MR. WHITE: Yes.

15 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Further
16 degrees?

17 MR. WHITE: No.

18 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay. Hired at
19 PSE & G?

20 MR. WHITE: ~~(1995. October 30 or 31st)~~
21 somewhere in there. I think it was the 30th, it's
22 right at the end of the month.

23 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: At some point
24 did you become ~~()~~ licensed ~~()~~ down here on the Salem units?

25 MR. WHITE: ~~(Yes.)~~

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1 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: When was that?

2 MR. WHITE: That's a good question. Let's

3 see --

4 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: On or about?

5 MR. WHITE: It would be September and this

6 is six years ago so whatever that is, 1998 I guess.

7 I think that sounds right. They just sent in my

8 ~~renewal for my license~~ so I'm pretty sure it was six

9 years ago.

10 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: And did you

11 obtain an ~~instant SRO license?~~

12 MR. WHITE: Yes. It wasn't that ~~instant~~

13 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: That's what

14 they call them.

15 MR. WHITE: Yeah I know. It was a bit

16 different for me.

17 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: And your

18 current job title?

19 MR. WHITE: I'm an ~~SRO~~ on Alpha shift,

20 ~~CRS, SRO.~~

21 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: And whom do you

22 report to today?

23 MR. WHITE: Mike -- actually physically

24 today Mike's not in, he's the normal shift manager so

25 Mike Strawmuller (PHONETIC) is the guy ~~I~~ normally

Handwritten initials/signature

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1 report to Frank Sowens (PHONETIC) who is one of the
2 other AOMs is on shift today actually.

3 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right. Okay.
4 Now the issue that I'm going to be talking to you
5 about occurred on September 21, 2002.

6 MR. WHITE: Okay.

7 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: During that
8 time period were you on the Bravo shift?

9 MR. WHITE: Yes I was.

10 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: All right. And
11 in between 1992 and 1995, where did you work? Did you
12 work for another utility?

13 MR. WHITE: No. No, this is the first
14 commercial anything that I've worked for after I
15 [REDACTED] from the [REDACTED] I [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]
16 and I came here, what, three years later.

17 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay.

18 MR. WHITE: I taught high school.

19 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay. Up in
20 Connecticut?

21 MR. WHITE: In Connecticut, right.

22 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Good.

23 MR. WHITE: Got certified to teach
24 physics couldn't find a job so I said well enough of
25 that.

1 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Wow, that's
2 amazing. Now they're dying to find ~~(teachers)~~ seems
3 like.

4 MR. WHITE: Yes, specifically the ~~(high)~~
5 school, the local high school at North Stonington the
6 ~~(physics teacher)~~ retired two years ago.

7 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: The ~~(physics)~~
8 teacher? They had one?

9 MR. WHITE: They had one, right, because
10 I used to fill in for him. I was the only guy they
11 had to fill in for him and I knew he was going to
12 retire in five years and I said well I can't wait five
13 years to find a job.

14 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: No, that's a
15 long wait.

16 MR. WHITE: So I was doing substitute
17 ~~(teaching)~~ and stuff and I wasn't willing to move to be
18 a ~~(teacher)~~. I figured I could get a job right there and
19 I couldn't.

20 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Amazing.

21 MR. WHITE: And after trying that for
22 about a year I said well that's enough, I'm going to
23 try in some other field.

24 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Did you do
25 training in the ~~()~~ were you ever --

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MR. WHITE: Yes, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay. Up in Saratoga?

MR. WHITE: No, Groton.

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Groton? All right.

MR. WHITE: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Thanks.

MR. WHITE: So yeah that was my two years of [REDACTED]

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Wow. Okay. Let's talk about September 21, 2002. You were on duty that night, is that correct?

MR. WHITE: Yes I was on Salem Unit 2.

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay. At some point in the evening was it recognized that there was a leak in the 22MS42 valve?

MR. WHITE: Yes.

SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Tell me what you remember and I'll --

MR. WHITE: I'll try and remember how we, I don't remember how we first found it. I believe it was one of the base guys was out walking around and he

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1 saw the leak. I believe there might have been a small
2 leak on there at one time and then it got larger.

3 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay.

4 MR. WHITE: And it was reported to the
5 control room. Who specifically reported it the first
6 time I don't know. However, we became aware that
7 there was a leak on that valve and we started looking
8 into it and found out that it was a fairly healthy
9 sized leak. Not that we saw any change in, I don't
10 remember that we saw any change in temperature or
11 anything like that. It was not that significant that
12 we saw anything that affected, directly affected --
13 activity of the magnitude that would do that, but it
14 was of such a magnitude it was causing switch gears
15 and other things to become wedded.

16 And we had various indications in the
17 control room that some of the group buses, which are
18 part of the reactor cooling pumps and stuff, I believe
19 we got a, I don't remember the specific title of it
20 but it was like a failure to transfer warning or
21 something on one of the overheads, I don't remember
22 what number it was or anything but I remember
23 specifically thinking about it.

24 And we shut down, chances are we're going
25 to lose RCPs, it was becoming, it rapidly became a

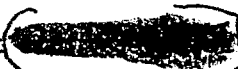

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1 complicated, you know, we're seeing indications in the
2 control room that we have a fairly significant leak
3 and we had indications and stuff the switch gear was
4 getting wedded, and we were thinking, okay, can we get
5 somebody down there to redirect the steam so it
6 doesn't go on the switch boards and stuff like that.

7 And it was over a course of a period of
8 time, I don't know whether it was half hour or an
9 hour, but it was long enough that we looked at stuff,
10 we knew where the valve was, we knew that if we shut
11 the valve, somehow, I don't remember who contacted and
12 got hold of design engineering or somebody that knew
13 that if you shut that valve that that would stop the
14 leak coming from where the top of the valve, which is
15 where we thought it was coming from.

16 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

17 MR. WHITE: So we looked at the various
18 options and I don't know when, but some time during
19 the course of it, as a matter of fact  and
20 I because Van took command and control in the control
21 room so I could go down and look at it to get a feel
22 for what we had out in the field. You know, we made
23 sure the plant was stable and all that stuff, and I
24 had Van in the control room and I went out with 
25 so that we could see where the leak was, how big it

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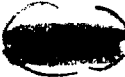
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1 was, you know, what we might be able to do about
2 redirecting it and stuff.

3 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: What did you
4 discover from that review?

5 MR. WHITE: Well, I specifically remember
6  and I standing down because the valve is up on a
7 platform of probably eight feet up in the air.

8 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: I've seen it,
9 I know where the valve is.

10 MR. WHITE: You probably know exactly
11 where it is. We were standing off to the side because
12 you could see the steam blowing out of it, and I
13 remember specifically commenting to them that, you
14 know, that it wasn't safe to get up there to shut the
15 valve because, you know, first off there was enough
16 lagging and stuff still attached to the valve so you
17 really couldn't tell where the steam was coming from.

18 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: What's lagging?
19 What is lagging?

20 MR. WHITE: Lagging is, you know, the
21 thermal covering that --

22 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: The wrap like?

23 MR. WHITE: Yes, the stuff that you wrap
24 on the outside so that it doesn't get too hot and
25 people don't get burned and you don't lose heat

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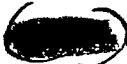
1 through.

2 Anyhow, the thermal lagging material that
3 was over the top of the thing was directing the steam
4 such that you really couldn't tell where it was coming
5 from. You could tell it was coming from that valve
6 but you couldn't see what on that valve, and it was a
7 fairly good magnitude and it was blowing right on the
8 platform and across that platform where you could get
9 up to the valve.

10 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right. Was the
11 steam hot enough that it would cause injury to people
12 temperature wise?

13 MR. WHITE: I would say oh yes, certainly,
14 steam temperature 300, 400 degrees.

15 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: All right that
16 answers my question.

17 MR. WHITE: And it's blowing out of the
18 pipe, it was blowing out from underneath the lagging
19 and we couldn't tell where it was coming from because
20  and I are standing there and it's noisy, but you
21 know we had a brief conversation saying that, boy, if
22 we could just somehow get it redirected such that we
23 could get safely get up there to shut that valve, and
24 you knew that the valve was intact, which we didn't
25 know at the time.

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1 And we decided, he and I talking, said,
2 well we can't get up there. I'm not going to safely,
3 I don't know that it's safe to send somebody up there
4 with the steam blowing off in the direction and stuff
5 that it was, because it was blowing right across the
6 platform over onto the switch gear right on the other
7 side of it.

8 And I said to [REDACTED] you know we had a
9 discussion and we both agreed that you couldn't safely
10 get up there to shut that valve.

11 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: All right. So
12 you come to that conclusion after looking at the
13 steam?

14 MR. WHITE: Right.

15 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Do you then
16 come back to the control room with [REDACTED]

17 MR. WHITE: That's correct.

18 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: What happened
19 next?

20 MR. WHITE: I don't remember if [REDACTED] came
21 back to the control room with me at that time or not.
22 But I do specifically remember having a discussion
23 with him that it was not safe with that and that, you
24 know, somehow we could tell where the steam was coming
25 from and we could safely get up there and we knew that

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1 the valve was intact and wasn't going to fall apart
2 when we tried to manipulate the valve that we could
3 shut it.

4 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

5 MR. WHITE: And that's where we left.
6 There was a lot of ifs and we didn't think we could
7 get up there at the time and I proceeded back to the
8 control room and then [REDACTED] I don't know where he
9 went, whether he stayed out in the field or came back.

10 I went back and we talked it over with Van
11 and the decision was made that, you know, we didn't
12 think we could get up there safely so we weren't going
13 to attempt to shut the valve because we didn't know if
14 the thing was going to fall apart in your hand and
15 kill somebody.

16 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

17 MR. WHITE: And we made the decision we
18 were going to shut down.

19 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Shut down the
20 plant?

21 MR. WHITE: Shut down the plant
22 right.

23 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Was that
24 decision made during a conference call with management
25 who was on site? Do you recall what happened?

MR. WHITE: No, I don't remember. I was

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1 in the control room, if there was a conference call
2 Van made it independent of me. I was not involved in
3 any conference call with anybody other than who was in
4 the control room.

5 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: All right.

6 MR. WHITE: And I'm sure that [REDACTED] 7c
7 because [REDACTED] and I agreed, you know, in our first look
8 at it when I was out in the field that we couldn't get
9 up there to get that valve shut.

10 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay.

11 MR. WHITE: And you know, that's the way
12 the conversation was left. And then I went back to
13 the control room and we looked at our options. We
14 made a decision, okay, we're going to start shutting
15 down the unit. As a matter of fact, it's a fairly
16 complicated shutdown because of all the what-ifs with
17 the alarms that were in where the group buses may not
18 transfer when we get to the point we're going to take
19 the turbine off line and stuff like that. And we were
20 discussing a lot of contingencies.

21 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

22 MR. WHITE: So it was a fairly lengthy
23 brief which probably, I don't know, may have taken 15
24 or 20 minutes because like I said it was a fairly
25 complicated shutdown and there were a lot of things

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1 that we were concerned about in the shutdown itself,
2 besides the fact that we had steam blowing out there.

3 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Do you recall
4 being present for any discussion between Van and [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED], at the time period you're talking about now,
6 where [REDACTED] is telling Van, maybe it can be shut. I'm
7 not talking later in the shift now but talking right
8 about the time period where you're going into your
9 shift briefing. Do you recall them being present for
10 any discussion between the two of them regarding
11 whether it could or not be shut down? That maybe
12 something changed?

13 MR. WHITE: Well, the only thing that I
14 knew was that my discussion with [REDACTED] and that was
15 when we were out in the field, I don't remember
16 specifically talking, we may have talked, I don't
17 specifically remember that when we came back to the
18 control room.

19 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right. My
20 question was --

21 MR. WHITE: We bounced it back and forth,
22 you know, because obviously if I thought that we were
23 going to be able to shut it, I wouldn't be briefing
24 the shut, well I might have been briefing some stuff
25 but not shutting the plant down.

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1 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: My question was
2 do you recall being present for any discussion that
3 may have occurred between [REDACTED] and Van around the time
4 you're giving the shift briefing where they're talking
5 more about can it be closed, it's unsafe to close it?

6 MR. WHITE: I don't remember that.

7 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay. Well
8 tell me what you specifically remember next.

9 MR. WHITE: Well here's what I recall. So
10 I went into the lengthy brief and I thought Van was in
11 the control room during that time.

12 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay.

13 MR. WHITE: And I don't remember if [REDACTED]
14 stuck his head in because I was involved in the
15 procedures and talking to the ROs and who was going to
16 do what in the course of the shutdown.

17 And when I got done with the brief because
18 it was right as I said that's the end of the brief,
19 you know, we're going to get into the shutdown,
20 somebody walked into the control room, and I don't
21 remember who, whether it was Van or whether it was
22 [REDACTED] somebody walked in and said, hey, the
23 valve's shut.

24 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: And was that
25 the first you had heard of someone even going out

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1 there and looking at it or attempting to shut it?

2 MR. WHITE: Well I knew that we had people
3 down there looking at it, and who was there at what
4 specific time, we were looking at it for a chance, you
5 know, with conditions changed. And my understanding
6 and talking, because I discussed it with [REDACTED]
7 afterwards, you know, I said what happened? How did
8 the valve get shut? Because we discussed it. We
9 wanted to shut the valve, I remember specifically
10 talking to him during our discussion when we were out
11 in the field looking at it that we wanted to do that
12 if we thought it was safe to do so.

13 And I was told that what had happened, and
14 this was [REDACTED] I'm pretty sure it was [REDACTED] that was
15 telling me, that the lagging that was on the valve had
16 blown off, and he could clearly see where the leak was
17 coming from.

18 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

19 MR. WHITE: And based on the change in
20 conditions, and I think what he described is it
21 changed the direction that the steam was blowing also.

22 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

23 MR. WHITE: So he could tell that the
24 valve was intact and it was blowing such that he was
25 able, or somebody was able, and I didn't realize it

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1 was [REDACTED] himself. I understand it was [REDACTED] himself
2 that shut the valve, saw that the conditions had
3 changed and then he proceeded to do what we had talked
4 about that we'd like to do if we could get up there.

5 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

6 MR. WHITE: Now, as I said, I was in the
7 brief for the shutdown, I did not specifically give a
8 direction, or no one came in and says, hey, the
9 condition's changed, we think we can get to the valve,
10 we'd like to shut the valve. I did not say go shut
11 the valve to anybody.

12 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

13 MR. WHITE: The first indication that the
14 valve was actually being shut was when somebody came
15 in, as soon as I finished the brief and said, "Hey,
16 the valve's shut."

17 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: The valve is
18 shut?

19 MR. WHITE: Right. And you know it was a
20 sigh of relief on my part because I'm thinking, man,
21 this is going to be complicated. There's a lot of
22 parallel in this thing and all of a sudden somebody
23 walked in and said it was, you know, the valve had
24 been shut and it was isolated.

25 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: You mentioned

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1 that after learning it was shut, you had a
2 conversation with [REDACTED] about how it happened?

3 MR. WHITE: I'm fairly certain that it was
4 [REDACTED] that I was talking to. If it was right then I
5 don't know, but at some later time I know I talked to
6 him specifically about it because, you know, I thought
7 what changed [REDACTED]

8 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Let's go talk
9 about that conversation then.

10 MR. WHITE: Okay.

11 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: How much later
12 did this conversation occur which you're going to
13 describe now?

14 MR. WHITE: I believe it was shortly
15 thereafter.

16 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: During the
17 shift?

18 MR. WHITE: Oh yes it was during that
19 shift. I knew that the lagging had moved, that he had
20 been able to see where the steam was coming from, and
21 I felt it was safe to get up there.

22 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: During that
23 conversation did [REDACTED] tell you that he had
24 communicated that to Van, that information to Van
25 before going to shut the valve?

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1 MR. WHITE: You know, I don't remember him
2 saying yes or no. He may have, I don't remember that,
3 because my recollection was during the whole time, I
4 thought Van was in the control room the whole time but
5 you know, like I said, I was engrossed in the briefing
6 in the shutdown, I thought he was standing off to the
7 side where we were briefing it.

8 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: [REDACTED] or Van?

9 MR. WHITE: Van.

10 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

11 MR. WHITE: I don't believe [REDACTED] was in
12 the control room most of the time, or at all, until
13 right at the end of the brief.

14 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: In the
15 discussion which you just described with [REDACTED]
16 at any point during that discussion did it come up on
17 whether or not [REDACTED] had informed Van Ford of what he
18 was going to do before he did it?

19 MR. WHITE: I don't remember that. He may
20 have said it, I don't remember that specifically. I
21 mean like I said, it was two years ago, I don't
22 remember if he specifically said he told Van. He may
23 have. I can't say that for a fact because I don't
24 remember him specifically saying that he told Van that
25 he was going to go shut the valve. I thought Van was

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1 in the control room to tell you the truth.

2 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Well I believe
3 Van was in the control room for the majority of this
4 time that this whole sequence was going on. But at
5 any point did you have a discussion with Van Ford
6 about how that occurred, how the closing had occurred
7 and what he knew and what he didn't know about it?

8 MR. WHITE: I'm trying to think if I
9 talked to Van about it or if it was [REDACTED] or it may
10 have been both at the same time, I don't remember.

11 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: All right, let
12 me ask you this point blank question. At any point
13 did you have a discussion with either of those two
14 people where they each said, where Van would have
15 said, I didn't know [REDACTED] was going to do that before
16 he did it, or where [REDACTED] said I told Van what I was
17 going to do before I did what I did?

18 MR. WHITE: I don't remember specifically
19 discussing that with me who told anybody, because I
20 thought, to tell you the truth I thought Van was in
21 the control room the whole time when the valve was --

22
23 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: You keep saying
24 that. Why are you saying I thought Van was in the
25 control room? Why is that?

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1 MR. WHITE: Well I thought he was there
2 when we were briefing the shutdown the whole time.

3 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay. All
4 right.

5 MR. WHITE: That's why I believed he was
6 in the control room. I didn't think he was out in the
7 field when the valve got shut, I don't know if he was
8 or not.

9 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

10 MR. WHITE: You know, he wouldn't
11 necessarily have to be there but I thought he was
12 standing off to the side in the control room when I
13 was doing the brief.

14 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Well why do you
15 keep bringing up the fact that you think Van was in
16 the control room? Why do you think that's relevant?

17 MR. WHITE: Well that's where I thought he
18 was.

19 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay. Right.

20 MR. WHITE: I don't know, I mean is there
21 an issue that --

22 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: The question is
23 Van Ford the shift manager, he's responsible for the
24 shift, did he know what [REDACTED] was going to do
25 before [REDACTED] did it?

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1 MR. WHITE: I don't know, you'll have to
2 ask Van that. I mean he would be the best --

3 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Do you have any
4 knowledge of whether or not he knew or not?

5 MR. WHITE: I don't specifically have any
6 knowledge of that.

7 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay. Right.
8 I mean just think about it this way, the control
9 room's going one way, is there a rogue employee out in
10 the plant doing something that the control room in the
11 form of Van Ford doesn't know about, that's the issue.

12 MR. WHITE: See I don't know. I don't
13 know if [REDACTED] talked to Van or Van talked to [REDACTED]

14 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: All right.
15 Let's move on then, I think we've beaten that one up
16 pretty good.

17 MR. WHITE: That's the best I can do
18 because I don't remember where everybody specifically
19 was located the whole time.

20 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Do you recall
21 being present for any conversation where Van Ford is
22 questioning the safety of closing the valve, whether
23 it was safe or not, from a personal standpoint?

24 MR. WHITE: Well yes, we did discuss that
25 early on after when we came back and we made the

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1 decision, you know, when I was briefing, before I
2 briefed the shutdown that, hey, we don't think we can
3 safely get up there.

4 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay.

5 MR. WHITE: We did discuss that
6 specifically, that's why we made the decision which
7 way we were going to go with the plan.

8 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Which was to
9 shut it down?

10 MR. WHITE: Which was to shut it down and
11 obviously conditions must have changed, as I said,
12 from my understanding.

13 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: At some point
14 did the control room swap over the feed pumps? Do you
15 remember if that occurred or not?

16 MR. WHITE: Swapped over the feed pumps?

17 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

18 MR. WHITE: Hmmm. What do you mean by
19 swapped over? Both feed pumps were still running at
20 the time.

21 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right. Let me
22 take a short break and I'll pull out some testimony
23 that might help you understand what the issue is here.

24 MR. WHITE: Okay. Yes, okay. I mean I'm
25 not sure I understand what the issue is on that.

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1 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: It's 10:36, let
2 me go off the record for a minute.

3 (Whereupon, the foregoing matter went off
4 the record at 10:36 a.m. and went back on
5 the record at 10:50 a.m.)

6 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay. It's
7 almost 10:50 in the morning and we had a somewhat
8 lengthy discussion about the steam valves and the
9 swapping of the valves. Do you recall there being
10 discussion that night on shift about having to swap
11 these valves? If you do, tell me what you remember
12 about that.

13 MR. WHITE: Well, the only thing I
14 remember specifically about feed pumps is there's two
15 steam sources that come to the feed pump, one is bleed
16 steam and one is main steam. And we did discuss, I
17 believe we discussed during the course of the
18 briefings the fact that if that valve did get shut,
19 that that would take away one of the two steam
20 sources, the main steam source. The main steam source
21 is not what's normally powering those feed pumps when
22 we were at the power level we were at.

23 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

24 MR. WHITE: So bleed steam was powering it
25 so you could shut that valve it should not have

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1 affected anything, I believe. I'd have to go back and
2 look at all the procedures just to make sure because
3 I don't have any of that stuff in front of me right
4 now. But that was the only thing that I remember
5 specifically discussing about the fact that one of the
6 steam sources would have been isolated if we could get
7 the valve shut.

8 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right. Do you
9 recall if [REDACTED] was providing any direction to
10 any of the ROs about what you just described?

11 MR. WHITE: No. [REDACTED] didn't
12 provide any in the control room, provided no direction
13 to anybody. I mean he didn't have command and
14 control, he wouldn't have done that and I certainly
15 would have remembered that if he had. I'm pretty
16 sensitive about that stuff.

17 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay.

18 MR. WHITE: You know, when I have command
19 and control and, somebody else comes in and wants to
20 take the watch, they'd better, you know, follow the
21 appropriate procedures to take the watch when they
22 start giving direction, the guys that work for me.

23 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Did that occur
24 at all that night?

25 MR. WHITE: It did not.

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1 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: [REDACTED]

2 MR. WHITE: No one came in the control
3 room and no one gave direction to anybody in the
4 control room that didn't go through me, including Van.

5 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: All right. Did
6 [REDACTED] come through you to give direction to any
7 of the ROs to do what we just talked about?

8 MR. WHITE: Swapping the feed pump steam
9 over?

10 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

11 MR. WHITE: If he did, I certainly was not
12 aware of it. Now [REDACTED] was in and out of the control
13 room several times in the course of events that night,
14 you know, if he did, I was not aware of him telling an
15 RO to do anything. And if he had, I'm sure I would
16 have said something to him and said, okay, you know,
17 what are we trying to do? And make sure that I was
18 the guy that was giving the direction to the operators
19 not him, he knows he's not supposed to do that.

20 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Do you know who
21 Bob Cordury (PHONETIC) is?

22 MR. WHITE: Yes.

23 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Do you recall
24 him being on duty that night?

25 MR. WHITE: Yes. Bob was on Bravo shift

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1 at the time.

2 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay.

3 MR. WHITE: I don't remember what capacity
4 he was that night, whether he was at work control or
5 where he was.

6 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

7 MR. WHITE: I believe in the course of
8 various things going in, I believe he was out in the
9 field at some time and looked at the steam leak.

10 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right. Did you
11 have any discussions with Bob Cordury regarding the
12 closing of this valve after you learned it was closed?
13 That night do you recall --

14 MR. WHITE: I'm trying to remember if I
15 talked to Bob about it. I can't remember talking to
16 Bob that night. I have talked to Bob subsequently, I
17 can't say for sure if it was that night.

18 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Well tell me --

19 MR. WHITE: Bob was down there or in the
20 vicinity, I think, when the valve was closed. That
21 was my understanding.

22 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay. Tell me
23 what you and Bob talked about and what he said he saw
24 and heard? Can you remember?

25 MR. WHITE: Well, I think he pretty much

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1 described the same thing that [REDACTED] did, you know,
2 something happened, it was obvious where the steam was
3 coming from and that, you know, it may even have been
4 him that I was talking to when I actually knew that
5 [REDACTED] was the guy who puts hands on valve,
6 because I believe he was down there whenever that
7 happened. I mean he was not -- Bob was not in a
8 command and control position at the time, so I mean he
9 wouldn't have been giving him permission or anything
10 to do anything with that valve.

11 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right. Did Bob
12 speak to whether or not [REDACTED] had told Van Ford
13 about what he was going to do? Did he discuss that at
14 all with you? His knowledge of --

15 MR. WHITE: I don't remember that. He may
16 have at some point and, quite frankly, I don't
17 remember to this day whether [REDACTED] specifically talked
18 to Van. I was under the impression he had not, but he
19 may have.

20 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right. Why?

21 MR. WHITE: Because as I said because I
22 thought Van was in the control room when I was
23 briefing the shutdown. As the shift manager he would
24 normally be there, and I just thought he was. I can't
25 swear that he was but I thought he was in the control

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1 room during at least most of the briefing for the
2 shutdown.

3 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: My
4 understanding is the control room was operating under
5 the AB steam procedure, okay?

6 MR. WHITE: That is probably true.

7 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay.

8 MR. WHITE: I'm sure we were in some kind
9 of an AB knowing what the magnitude of the steam leak
10 was.

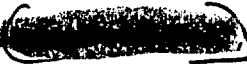
11 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Had you begun
12 to enter the shutdown procedures yet --

13 MR. WHITE: Had not.

14 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: -- when you
15 learned that the valve was shut?

16 MR. WHITE: No. We had not --

17 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay. Just
18 finished the briefing right?

19 MR. WHITE: My recollection is I had just
20 finished the brief and somebody, it was either Van
21 Ford or  that came in and said that valve
22 was closed. And I think it was Van, but how he found
23 that out I don't know, or when he found it out.

24 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

25 MR. WHITE: I think it was Van but once

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1 again I can't swear, there were so many, there were
2 people walking in and out of the control room and I'm
3 pretty sure that Van was the one that told me. That's
4 when I found out that the valve was shut. Now whether
5 [REDACTED] came up and told him in the control room or not
6 I don't know.

7 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: You're in the
8 AB steam procedure?

9 MR. WHITE: Correct.

10 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Is it allowed
11 in that procedure to isolate the valve manually like
12 [REDACTED] did? Is it allowed by that procedure or
13 do you have to go to another procedure to do that, to
14 actually do it?

15 MR. WHITE: I'd have to look at the exact
16 wording in there, but I'm fairly certain that
17 somewhere it tells you that if you can find the source
18 and isolate it, you do that.

19 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

20 MR. WHITE: Now exactly what step that
21 would have been in the AB, I mean I'd have to go look
22 at the AB, but somewhere in the AB there is something
23 that tells you if you can isolate the steam to isolate
24 it.

25 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Is that a

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1 lengthy procedure?

2 MR. WHITE: AB steam?

3 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Yes.

4 MR. WHITE: Not real long. I mean AB wise
5 most ABs you know, it's not that too involved I don't
6 think.

7 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Would it be a
8 violation of anything if you provided a copy of that
9 procedure to me or the residents and they can send it
10 up to me?

11 MR. WHITE: I don't see why it would be.

12 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: I don't think
13 so either.

14 MR. WHITE: I can't think of any reason,
15 as a matter of fact I'm surprised that you don't have
16 it.

17 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Well it's
18 coming back up in my head now that maybe that's
19 something that needs to be looked at.

20 MR. WHITE: Yes. You know, I would have
21 to look. I would think that in the continuous action
22 summary or some place it's going to tell you, if you
23 know where the leak is, isolate it.

24 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right. Okay.

25 MR. WHITE: I mean I'm fairly certain

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1 that's in there, exactly how it's worded and stuff
2 anymore I don't remember.

3 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Well let me get
4 back to you because I'm going to ask you to do that,
5 I'll get back to you okay?

6 MR. WHITE: Yes that would be -- as far as
7 I can see I don't see that that's a problem. I can
8 fax it to you or however you want to get it.

9 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

10 MR. WHITE: Now the other thing to
11 remember, that was two years ago and I'm not really
12 certain that procedure has been revised.

13 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.
14 Probably.

15 MR. WHITE: I think we can go back in the
16 archives and find it in the NCR --

17 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Get the regs.

18 MR. WHITE: And find out what reg was in
19 effect that day and pull the actual procedure. You
20 know, probably the actual procedure is somewhere
21 archived but that would be probably not too easy to
22 pull back out.

23 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: All right. How
24 about we take a short break and we should finish up in
25 about 15 minutes or so? Okay?

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1 MR. WHITE: That's fine, sure.

2 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: I want to look
3 at something quick and I just need a couple of
4 minutes. It's almost 11 o'clock and we're going to
5 take a break off the record.

6 (Whereupon, the foregoing matter went off
7 the record at 11:00 a.m. and went back on
8 the record at 11:45 a.m.)

9 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay. We're
10 back on the record, it's almost quarter of twelve.
11 The break was somewhat lengthy because they had a
12 second fire alarm here at TB2, we had to evacuate the
13 building. The Fire Department had to come and check
14 the whole building out so we just got back in the
15 building, I don't know, five minutes or so and we were
16 just discussing things off the record.

17 But now we're back on the record and
18 during the fire drill, Bill, did you have a chance to
19 review the AB procedure?

20 MR. WHITE: Yes I reviewed the AB Steam 1.
21 As a matter of fact, the copy that I'm looking at is
22 the actual copy because it's got my initials and times
23 that I'd noted on there the night that we did it. And
24 I also looked at the control room log for that night,
25 as well as reviewed some of, not every one of the

1 things in the NAP 5 procedure which talks about
2 conduct of operations.

3 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATORR: Based on your
4 review of the documents which you just described, does
5 that refresh your memory or change anything you told
6 me?

7 MR. WHITE: Yes.

8 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: If so, or if
9 you want to add something now please go ahead.

10 MR. WHITE: The only real thing it changes
11 is that to tell you the truth until I looked at the
12 log I forgot that we had already reduced power to 47
13 percent, and we only needed one feed pump at the time
14 to be able to operate the plant. And that the 22 feed
15 pump we knew that was where the leak was coming from.
16 However, as I said, we were in the process of
17 briefing, we were at 47 percent power while we were
18 doing the brief to get ready to take the unit off line
19 and reduce power the rest of the way down, take the
20 turbine off line and shut the main steam isolation
21 valves, which would have been the only way to isolate
22 that valve without shutting the valve itself, as
23 occurred.

24 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

25 MR. WHITE: And then, you know, I mean

1 essentially the rest of the stuff I don't see any
2 change in what I saw. During the course of the brief,
3 as I indicated before, we generally don't do
4 manipulations and I don't believe we were doing
5 anything with the feed pump to get ready to take it
6 off line.

7 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: That goes to
8 the swap question I brought up earlier?

9 MR. WHITE: To the swap question that you
10 brought up earlier. You know, I can't say for sure
11 that we hadn't discussed anything in the course of the
12 many things that we discussed during the shutdown, but
13 I'm fairly confident we weren't doing any
14 manipulations because it's not our practice during
15 briefings of that nature that the reactor operator or
16 the plant operator would do any manipulations on the
17 control board to shut any, you know, to swap anything
18 around.

19 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: If that
20 manipulation did occur at some point during the shift,
21 would it be required to put that in the control room
22 log?

23 MR. WHITE: It would not necessarily be
24 logged and, as a matter of fact, I looked through the
25 log and I didn't see that we annotated that we had

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1 done anything with respect to SOCN2, which would have
2 been the procedure, to shift any steam around.

3 And we did take, eventually we did trip
4 the feed pump but that was some 40 minutes or so,
5 actually 50 minutes after we'd already isolated the
6 steam leak. So that feed pump was operating off of
7 the bleed steam side of it and that, you know, we were
8 at reduced capacity anyhow so we were certainly able
9 to handle it at that power level.

10 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right. The AB
11 steam procedure, and we had the one section out where
12 it talks about right before you're notified that the
13 valve was isolated, where does that step say 3.39?
14 Can you read that for me, please?

15 MR. WHITE: Yes, 3.39 says, "Is the steam
16 leak isolable or repairable in the present plant
17 conditions?" Now that question was answered twice in
18 the course of this. At 0016 I initially annotated
19 that that was a no to that step and it tells me to go
20 to the step 3.42, which is the reduced power in
21 accordance with -- and that was the procedures that we
22 were briefing, that's the shutdown briefing.

23 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay.

24 MR. WHITE: Minimal load to hot standby,
25 and it tells you ultimately we were going to shut the

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1 main steam isolation valves in the course of the
2 shutdown.

3 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: And section
4 3.40, how does that read?

5 MR. WHITE: 3.40 said, "Isolate or repair
6 the steam leak." And that section was signed off, you
7 know, the question is 3.39 is the steam leak isolable
8 and repairable in present plan conditions? And then
9 at 0050 and I go back and look at the log, I've
10 annotated in the AB itself at 0050 I'd said yes. It
11 is isolable. Conditions changed, I went back to that
12 step and said that has changed and we should follow
13 the other path through the procedure at that time.

14 And that's customary, the way the
15 procedure flows if something had changed then I would
16 go back and annotate it at that time, and that's when
17 I knew that something was different, that we now knew
18 it was isolable. And looking at the control room log
19 for that night, at 0050 that's the team that I was
20 notified that the 22MS42 is closed and the steam leak
21 is stopped and the plan is to hold power there.

22 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: So at that step
23 in the procedure is closing that valve still allowed
24 by that procedure based on your review of it?

25 MR. WHITE: Yes, if the answer to this was

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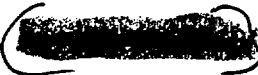
1 yes at that time.

2 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

3 MR. WHITE: The thing that's I guess
4 specific about this I didn't know that we could go
5 back and answer that yes until 0050 when the valve was
6 already closed.


7 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right. But
8 could a plant condition have changed in-between 0016
9 and 0050?

10 MR. WHITE: Oh yes, and my understanding
11 that the plant condition had changed was that the
12 source of the leak and the condition of the valve
13 became recognizable to the person that was out in the
14 field.

15 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Was there a
16 discussion earlier in the shift between yourself and
17  regarding whether the valve could be shut
18 or not and, if it could be, whether that was desirable
19 or not?

20 MR. WHITE: Yes.

21 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Can you just
22 reiterate what that was?

23 MR. WHITE: Yes I'll go over that again.
24  and I earlier in the shift prior to the 0016 when
25 we made the decision and then I started the brief, he

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1 and I jointly went out in the field and looked at the
2 valve. I had Van Ford go up, he was in the control
3 room so I could go out in the field during that time
4 frame.

5 And [REDACTED] and I looked at the valve and
6 looked at, you know, and we did say, I did tell him
7 that it would be advantageous that we'd want to shut
8 that valve if we could safely get to it.

9 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

10 MR. WHITE: That was our discussion.

11 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

12 MR. WHITE: And my understanding was at
13 the later time, at the time that I found out it was
14 now isolable, when I found out it was it was already
15 isolated.

16 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

17 MR. WHITE: But apparently [REDACTED] in his
18 evaluation, because he was the guy out in the field,
19 looked at it and now said, oh I can get up there
20 safely now. Now I can see what's going on with the
21 valve, the lagging, he could see the lagging. He
22 thought specifically that he could see that the leak
23 was coming from a flanged area, there was a piece of
24 the gasket material looked like it had been blown out
25 in that one section, and it probably wasn't very big,

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1 and it was directing the steam in a different
2 direction from when he and I had been out in the field
3 earlier and looked at it, and that he felt it could
4 safely be approached.

5 And, as we said, my understanding is that
6 he actually did it, he actually shut the valve himself
7 when he saw that he could get up there.

8 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

9 MR. WHITE: And to me personally in the
10 control room he did not communicate to me that he was
11 going to do that at that time, although we had
12 discussed earlier that that was what we would like to
13 do if we could access to the valve.

14 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right. Okay.
15 Are you aware of any information that leads you to
16 believe that [REDACTED] deliberately violated any
17 station procedure that night in what he did? And
18 again the word is deliberately violated?

19 MR. WHITE: I don't believe that [REDACTED]
20 deliberately violated it. I believe that he was out
21 in the field and he saw that the conditions had
22 changed, as we ha discussed earlier, had hoped that
23 they would change, or if we were standing there and it
24 had changed to that condition it would have probably
25 gone down differently. I personally would not have

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7C

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1 operated the valve, I'm the CRS on duty, I don't do
2 that kind of stuff when I'm the guy that's in the
3 chain of command for sure.

4 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

5 MR. WHITE: I would have proceeded back to
6 the control room to make sure the control room, that's
7 me. He may have gotten the impression from our
8 discussion that that was, you know, what I would have
9 liked to have had done because that's what I said we'd
10 like to do.

11 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Like to do
12 meaning close the valve?

13 MR. WHITE: To get the valve closed.

14 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: If the
15 conditions --

16 MR. WHITE: If we could get up there.

17 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Safely?

18 MR. WHITE: Right, and that's specifically
19 what we said. If we could get up there safely and
20 that we knew the valve wasn't going to fall apart in
21 our hands, then we would shut the valve.

22 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right. Okay.

23 MR. WHITE: But as I said, that was
24 earlier that we'd discussed that and then the
25 conditions changed. He saw that we met the conditions


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1 that we had talked about, that he and I had talked
2 about, so he may have felt that he had, you know,
3 obtained my permission, and in a kind of a way he did
4 earlier because we said, hey, that's what we want to
5 do.

6 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay.

7 MR. WHITE: And I could see his -- saying,
8 jeez, you know I discussed it with the CRS that we
9 would like to shut the valve. But that was you know
10 time early, and some time later, what, 40 minutes?
11 Thirty minutes later.

12 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: You think it
13 was only 30 minutes from the time you were out there
14 with  7C

15 MR. WHITE: Well I'm thinking that because
16 the time I wrote down here in 0016 when we made, when
17 I said, hey, we're going to go to the reduced power
18 step and started some time after that we started the
19 brief, so it would have been a little bit before that
20 and I see at 0050, which is about a little over 30
21 minutes from the time that I went back to the control
22 room and started briefing the shutdown, that's when
23 the valve actually got shut.

24 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay.


25 MR. WHITE: So we discussed approximately

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1 30 to 40 minutes before the valve got shut that that's
2 what we would like to do if we could get access to
3 that valve.

4 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay.

5 MR. WHITE: Now at the time I did not
6 specifically say,  I want you to shut the valve
7 or any specific words to that effect, but I could see
8 certainly that he'd get the impression that I wanted
9 that valve shut.

10 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Is there
11 anything else you'd like to add today? I don't think
12 I have any other questions at this time. I might have
13 some follow up ones; if I do, can I call you?

14 MR. WHITE: Yes certainly.

15 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: All right.

16 MR. WHITE: As I said, I never have
17 anything to hide and command and control was where I
18 lived for the last 30 years, you know. I didn't feel
19 too uncomfortable with what transpired until later on
20 some of the discussions said, well maybe he should
21 have called me before he'd shut the valve.

22 And in hindsight, if it was me out in the
23 field and I was doing it today, I would call the
24 control room before I did that and I probably wouldn't
25 do it myself. But that's just me. I was never an

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7C

1 operator at this plant. I don't operate equipment;
2 I'm not supposed to operate equipment.

3 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Did you feel
4 that, I mean that night after you learned that [REDACTED] TC
5 had closed the valve, did you feel that he had
6 violated your command and/or control of the plant and
7 the operators in the plant?

8 MR. WHITE: Well, I felt that he didn't do
9 anything that I didn't want to have done.

10 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay.

11 MR. WHITE: And there are didn't and
12 don'ts in there. I did not, as I said earlier, I did
13 not specifically give him direction to shut the valve
14 at any time. But in our discussion I can certainly
15 see where he got the impression that if that valve
16 would get shut, because we talked about it, if we shut
17 it, what the consequences were, you know, what the
18 steam source is for the steam pump or for the feed
19 pump.

20 And I was fairly confident in our
21 discussion that shutting that valve would have no
22 effect on anything in the plant.

23 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Right.

24 MR. WHITE: The plant would continue to
25 operate just the way it did. The only difference is

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1 I wouldn't have that, you know, in our case I mean
2 even though there's a lot of steam coming out, we
3 never really saw anything that would indicate that it
4 was affecting, you know, reactivity or reactor power
5 or anything.

6 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay.

7 MR. WHITE: And there was a lot of steam
8 but it would be directed at a switch board which was
9 the biggest concern probably. I didn't know what the
10 heck was going to happen with the switch boards, you
11 know, and that's why I was anxious, I was anxious to
12 get the valve isolated. I mean from a plant control
13 standpoint, I think there's good reason to think that
14 we wanted that valve shut, and it needed to be shut
15 because that steam was blowing towards the switch
16 boards.

17 And I don't know what direction it
18 changed, if it changed direction, which apparently it
19 did whenever the lagging blew off and stuff, it may
20 have been directed more towards the switch boards. I
21 don't know. Like I said, I wasn't there whenever he
22 made the decision he could gain access.

23 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay. Bill, is
24 there anything more you want to add?

25 MR. WHITE: No, I can't think of anything

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1 else. Like I said, if you have any other questions or
2 anything, you know, I've said a lot of stuff today.

3 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Yes, we've
4 talked quite a bit.

5 MR. WHITE: And we went back and forth as
6 to, you know, and it certainly changed my recollection
7 after I got a chance to look at the logs and stuff
8 after two years. But yes, please call me or send me
9 an e-mail or call the resident or whatever you need.

10 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay, I'll do
11 that.

12 MR. WHITE: I certainly will answer
13 whatever you want to know. But to the best of my
14 knowledge that's exactly what occurred in the command
15 and control aspects. I mean I guess that's really the
16 question. Whether or not he had to at the time and
17 what his impression was, I don't know. Only  can
18 answer what his impressions were about what our
19 discussion meant to him because I wasn't there when he
20 shut the valve.

21 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Is it your
22 opinion that  had to inform the control room
23 before he closed it, or he should have?

24 MR. WHITE: From a pure standpoint, he had
25 to tell us. I think that he thought that he did, and

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1 the fact that we'd discussed it earlier, that's what
2 I think.

3 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: Okay.

4 MR. WHITE: But you know I don't know what
5 went on in [REDACTED] head.

6 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: I'm asking your
7 opinion.

8 MR. WHITE: It's my opinion that he
9 thought he had the go ahead to shut the valve at the
10 time he was shutting the valve because we had
11 discussed all the ramifications. I was the CRS on
12 duty he had told me, maybe he felt that I'd already
13 told the control room I was going to shut the valve,
14 you know, you'll have to ask [REDACTED] specifically what
15 was in his mind at the time. But certainly I could
16 see where he might have gotten the impression that I
17 had given the go ahead, even though that was 30 or 40
18 minutes before that that I wanted that valve shut.

19 SR. SPECIAL AGENT TEATOR: I guess the
20 procedure reads, "if plant conditions change." Isn't
21 that part of the wording in the AB procedure?

22 MR. WHITE: Let's see. Well it doesn't
23 specifically say that, but plant conditions did
24 change, that's why I went back to this step again and
25 said --

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