## OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Agency:
Title:

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Incident Investigation Team

Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Plant Interview of: JIM GRAFF

## Docket No.

LOCATION: Scribe, New York

DATE: Wednesday, August 21, 1991 PAGES: 1 - 23

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Exhibit 3-1 (continued)
ADDENDUM TO INTERVIEW OF $\frac{-3-}{\text { Jim GRAFF }}$ (Name/Position)
Page Line Correction and Reason for Correction

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Page __of__ Signature

Date q/23/G1

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## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

## INCIDENT INVESTIGATION TEAM

| Interview of | $:$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| JIM GRAFF | : |
| (Closed) |  |

Conference Room B Administration Building Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Plant, Unit Two

Lake Road
Scriba, New York 13093
Wednesday, August 21, 1991

The interview commenced, pursuant to notice,

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\text { at } 3: 32 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m} .
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PRESENT FOR THE IIT:
Michael Jordan, NRC
John Kauffman, NRC
r.m

PROCEEDINGS
[3:32 p.m.]
MR. JORDAN: Good afternoon. It's August 21st, 1991. It's 3:30 in the afternoon.

We are at the Nine Mile Point, Unit Two, in the $P$ building. We are conducting interviews concerning the transient that occurred on August $13 \mathrm{th}, 1991$.

My name is Michael Jordan. I am with the NRC, out of Region III.

MR. KAUFFMAN: John Kauffman, out of NRC headquarters.

MR. GRAFF: I'm Jim Graff. I'm a reactor operator at Nine Mile Point, Two.

MR. JORDAN: Okay, Jim. Can you just give me an idea what your background is?

MR. GRAFF: Okay. I was a reactor operator for six years in the Navy and I got out in 1982.

I was hired for Unit Two but before that they sent us over to Unit one. I licensed there as a reactor operator and then $I$ came over to Unit Two and I have been licensed here for five to six years -- I don't know exactly. MR. JORDAN: Do you know when you licensed on Unit One?

MR. GRAFF: Like '83 or '84.
I got out of the Navy in 182 , so $I$ have been here
almost nine years.
MR. JORDAN: So you are an RO?
MR. GRAFF: Yes.
MR. JORDAN: Okay. Are you on midshifts or were you on day shifts?

MR. GRAFF: I just came in that morning for day shift.

MR. JORDAN: Okay. Why don't you give us an idea what time you showed up and just walk us through, as you came through the gate.

MR. GRAFF: Okay. I got there just after 6:00 and the Security guards wouldn't let me in so $I$ called the control room, got the ASSS that was coming on shift to tell them to let me in, so they let me in and I got to the control room about 6:10 and the first thing the sSS told me to do was to send someone down to locally find out what condenser vacuum was, because --

MR. JORDAN: Can I ask you, as you traversed through the gates up to the control room, did you go directly to the control room to the locker room?

MR. GRAFF: Directly to the control room. I knew something was wrong.

MR. JORDAN: In your traversing to the control room, can you give us an idea of the way you went and what the lighting was like between --

MR. GRAFF: The emergency lighting was on in the staircase I went up by the elevator there in the control building. I went up the stairs there and I could tell all the emergency lighting was on and everything else was off.

MR. JORDAN: When you say emergency lighting,
there's battery packs in the wall?
MR. GRAFF: Right.
MR. JORDAN: Those were on?
MR. GRAFF: yes -- well, I don't even think those
were on. I think the thing was pretty much dark.
MR. JORDAN: It was dark?
MR. GRAFF: Yes.
MR. JORDAN: The stairwell was dark?
MR. GRAFF: Right.
MR. JORDAN: Which stairwell did you go up?
MR. GRAFF: By the elevator there, control room elevator.

MR. JORDAN: What building is that called?
MR. GRAFF: It's really the aux service building, I guess you would call it.

MR. JORDAN: That's by the elevator?
MR. GRAFF: Right.
MR. JORDAN: You took the stairway or hallway to the --

MR. GRAFF: 306 elevation.

MR. JORDAN: 306? That's the control room elevation?

MR. GRAFF: Yes.
MR. JORDAN: From the stairwell to the control room, lighting no problem or a problem?

MR. GRAFF: You could see but it was darker than normal.

MR. JORDAN: Okay, you get to the control room. How was the control room?

MR. GRAFF: It was quiet. All the lights were on though. At that time $I$ didn't know -- had no idea what had even happened.

MR. JORDAN: A lot of people in the control room? Did it look chaotic or did it look like they were -

MR. GRAFF: It was calm but I didn't know what was going on. There was the SSS, the ASSS, the CSO was there and I think at that time there was like four other ROs, four or five other ROs in the room.

MR. JORDAN: But it looked like everything was, communications were going well?

MR. GRAFF: Yes.
MR. JORDAN: Okay, I'm sorry, you say that you were assigned?

MR. GRAFF: The very first thing the sSS told me was -- I told him I'm available and the very first thing he
told me to find out what condenser vacuum was locally because the meters were failed downscale in the control room.

So I had come up with a non-licensed operator up the stairs so I sent -- I went out. Well, first I tried to call him on the here-here and found out the here-here's didn't work and that's when everybody told me what happened.

I went out. He was in the hallway. They were going over to our room where the operators hang out, the Beehive there.

MR. JORDAN: Beehive.
MR. GRAFF: I told him we needed condenser vacuum locally so he went to go get it. I had given him a radio and then $I$ found out those didn't work either and he went down there an $I$ went back in the control room.

Before he even called back to tell me what it was, they had restored the UPS's, powered the UPS's at I would guess 630, 640, something like that.

We got vacuum indication back then.
MR. JORDAN: Okay?
MR. GRAFF: Okay, and then the SSS' told me to get a condensate booster pump running to restore level and me and another RO, Chuck Gerberich, who was --

MR. JORDAN: Was this before or after the power
had returned?
MR. GRAFF: I would say after. I can't say for sure but $I$ am pretty sure it was after the power had been returned.

MR. JORDAN: Did he say get condensate-condensate booster --

MR. GRAFF: The condensate booster pump running, so by that time there was a lot more operators in the control room and there was a couple -- I'm told a couple of non-licensed operators to go down, make sure the AA booster pumps are ready to run and one of them to go to the condemin panel to make sure everything looked all right there, so they took off to go do that and then maybe ten minutes, fifteen minutes later they called back and said everything looked good down there. We started the AA condensate booster pump up.

MR. JORDAN: Were no condensate booster pumps operating?

MR. GRAFF: Right. When $I$ went in there the only thing running was the AA condensate pump. Everything else was green flagged. I didn't know it at the time but afterwards they told me they had shut them off. I knew they didn't trip because they weren't red flagged. They were green flagged.

MR. JORDAN: So no condensate pumps tripped. Did
they turn off all the condensate water booster pumps?
MR. GRAFF: I guess they got up to level two -- or 202 inches in the vessel so they shut everything but the AA condensate pump off.

MR. KAUFFMAN: By "green flag" you mean the breaker position --

MR. GRAFF: Took it to stop. Right, if you go to stop you got a green flag.

MR. KAUFFMAN: You're not talking the light, you're talking the --

MR. GRAFF: Well, right. You have the green light.

MR. KAUFFMAN: Right.
MR. GRAFF: But you also have the green flag, right? If it tripped, if it was running and it tripped you would have the green light and a red flag.

MR. JORDAN: Okay, so all the green flags were aligned with the green lights --

MR. GRAFF: Right.
MR. JORDAN: Which indicated that they were turned off?

MR. GRAFF: Someone turned them off.
MR. JORDAN: so that any condensate pump running and you're getting ready to start the A condensate booster, right? Okay.
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MR. GRAFF: So we got the procedure out and we went per the startup procedure and later on that sort of messed us up a little, caused a problem later down the line after we got - well, we got the pump started and it started fine. Everything was good and reactor pressure at that time was like 640 or so and we had like 680 discharge pressure, the booster pump, and so we thought we were all ready to feed up and we tried feeding with an LB55 valve and we couldn't get any flow. I think level at this time was like 133 inches.

I wasn't getting flow so we tried the LV137 which has its own separate, that bypass -- well, we got the booster pump running and in the startup procedure for the booster pump one of the first things is to verify that the suction valves, the 84 valves, of the feed pump, shut those. So those were shut --
MR. JORDAN: What were those numbers?
MR. GRAFF: 84 s .
MR. JORDAN: 845 to the suction to the --
MR. GRAFF: -- feed pump. I went to open on it and I had the green and the red light which I thought the valve was stroking open, so that's when I tried to feed while it was going open but $I$ didn't get an indication that I was feeding.

MR. JORDAN: Which valves did you try to open?

MR. GRAFF: 84A.
MR. JORDAN: So originally you had closed them--
MR. GRAFF: Per procedure.
MR. JORDAN: To start the A condensate booster pump?

MR. GRAFF: Right. We closed all three of them per procedure.

MR. JORDAN: Then after you got the pump operating --

MR. GRAFF: I attempted to open it.
MR. JORDAN: You tried to open the 84 s?
MR. GRAFF: Right.
MR. JORDAN: And A84 and --
MR. GRAFF: -- and then $I$ had a red and a green light, indicating to me that the valve's gone open, so I'm figuring while it's partially open $I$ am going to try to feed, but $I$ couldn't with the LV55. I couldn't get any flow in.

MR. JORDAN: The LV55s were closed?
MR. GRAFF: They were closed originally so -- and we also tried to feed with an LVIOA which you have meters for flow indication and $I$ wasn't getting anything so we decided to go try the 137, because that bypasses the feed pumps.

Then after a while we said, well, let's see what
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happens when we go closed with the 84 valve and the close light immediately came on, indicating to us that it never stroked at all.

Once I opened the LV137, that has a separate meter. I was putting in about 600 gallons per minute and level was -- Mark Bodoh, he was monitoring reactor water level, and --

MR. JORDAN: How many gallons? what did you say?
MR. GRAFF: 600 -- and he told me we were
increasing about one inch every five to ten minutes, level was going up. The SSS was happy with that because earlier he had told me not -- once I get feed established, not to feed to fast because he didn't want to cool down too fast, so we had a good feed rate and we were in control of it.

MR. JORDAN: About one inch per minute?
MR. GRAFF: About one inch every five minutes $I$ would say it was going up.

MR. JORDAN: Sorry, go ahead.
MR. KAUFFMAN: Do you have any explanation for why the 84 valve didn't open?

MR. GRAFF: I think there's just too much of a differential pressure across the valve and the procedure that we were using was assuming the system shut down and there is a manual bypass valve around the 84 and we asked the SSS can we send someone out there but at the time they
didn't know what the radiation levels in the turbine building were because all the radiation monitoring wad down because of the problem, so he said no, as long as we are feeding with the 137 we are not going to send anybody in to open that bypass.

Normally you would open the bypass and then open that valve and close the bypass but the procedure we were using was for starting up cold.

MR. KAUFFMAN: Do you happen to know the number of that procedure?

MR. GRAFF: I think it is OPE-3.
MR. JORDAN: Is that your normal startup procedure?

MR. GRAFF: Yes, for condensate system.
MR. JORDAN: Okay, so now you got the AA condensate pump on. You've got the AA condensate booster pump on.

MR. GRAFF: Okay -- then some time in there --
MR. JORDAN: You are feeding through the LV137--
MR. GRAFF: Right.
MR. JORDAN: -- water is going to come up about an inch per five minutes.

MR. GRAFF: The we got an annunciator for high starter temperature on the AA condensate pump, so we told the sSs that and we all decided -- well, he told us just get
another condensate pump running, so we started the $B$ condensate pump and within five minutes that starter water high temperature alarm had cleared and when we started that our discharge pressure out the booster pump went up to like 740, 760, so that increased our feed a little bit more.

MR. KAUFFMAN: Do you have an explanation for why starting that pump would have caused the pump starter water temperature to come down?

MR. GRAFF: Yeah, it was working too hard. It was supplying all the suction for the booster pump.

MR. JORDAN: How do you normally operate? Do you normally operate -- 12 on 1,3 on 1?

MR. GRAFF: Normally we, up at power, 100 percent power, we have three condensate pumps and two booster pumps. MR. JORDAN: And how many feed?

MR. GRAFF: Two.
MR. JORDAN: Two feedwater pumps.
MR. GRAFF: Right.
MR. JORDAN: Okay -- discharge from the condensate, from the booster pump increased after starter -how did the flow increase? The flow go up also?

MR. GRAFF: A little bit, yes, 50, maybe 50
gallons per MOR. It's basically the same flow rate -- or basically the same feed rate, a little better.

MR. JORDAN: Okay.
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MR. GRAFF: The rest of the time I monitored water level increasing, and kept the SSS informed and meanwhile he told another RO, R.J. Reynolds, to commence a cooldown, so he was doing that and the two of us were sort of working together because as he cooled down I was feeding more.

MR. JORDAN: Does this got an automatic level controller?

MR. GRAFF: Yes, it does.
MR. JORDAN: That you can put it on? Did you put it on level or did you maintain manual?

MR. GRAFF: I maintained manual. It was full open the whole time until we started to get up close to the band. Then he gave me a band of 159.3 to 202.3 and we ended up getting in a normal band and stabilizing and putting it in auto.

MR. JORDAN: But you did put it in auto?
MR. GRAFF: Yes.
MR. JORDAN: And it looked okay in auto, it
fluctuated --
MR. GRAFF: It was fine.
MR. JORDAN: It looked good in auto?
MR. GRAFF: Right.
MR. JORDAN: Do you have any idea about what time that was?

MR. GRAFF: No, I don't. I told the SSS. He might
have logged it. I don't know.
MR. JORDAN: So you got up to between 159.3 and 202.3 and put it in auto and how did the rest of your day go?

MR. GRAFF: It was pretty slow really. We had a lot of coverage there because we had three shifts on, coming in on days.

MR. JORDAN: Did you feel restrained, like people. were backing around you and you couldn't do your work?

MR. GRAFF: Actually I thought that everybody did good. They communicated, everybody worked together. They did fine.

At one point they made an announcement anybody not doing anything that's not responsible to please leave, so that cleared out and shortly after that, once we knew it was in auto, you know, $I$ told the cso everything and I left too, just to keep down the congestion.

MR. JORDAN: Are you on normal days? Are you a relief?

MR. GRAFF: I am a relief operator.
MR. JORDAN: You are a relief operator?
MR. GRAFF: Yes.
MR. JORDAN: As a relief operator, what does that -- are you assigned a normal rotating shift or you're on days --

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MR. GRAFF: You cover for vacations when people go on vacation or are sick. You cover for the Ro position.

MR. JORDAN: But normally you come in days and if everything is hunky-dory, peachy-keen you just come in and you are available?

MR. GRAFF: Right, you assist the shift that is on.

MR. JORDAN: So once you were no longer needed, you turn the responsibility for the feedwater to the --

MR. GRAFF: Right. It was in auto and the cSo knew it and his control room $E$ knew it so they monitored it. MR. JORDAN: And you left. Do you know what time you left the control room?

MR. GRAFF: No, I don't.
MR. JORDAN: During this time any piece of equipment not functioning the way you anticipated it to function?

MR. GRAFF: the 84 valves.
MR. JORDAN: But that you said--
MR. GRAFF: NOw I know why but at the time we were wondering why aren't we getting any feed because we thought that valve was going open, you know?

MR. JORDAN: Okay, any other pieces of equipment not functioning well?

MR. GRAFF: I knew they were having trouble with

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the turning gear but $I$ wasn't involved in it in any way. I was taking care of the feed system but, you know, the person that was talking to them on the radio was a few feet from me.

MR. JORDAN: Okay. Do you know if they transferred power from the maintenance power on the UPS's back to normal power when you were in the control room?

MR. GRAFF: Yes. I remember them doing that.
MR. JORDAN: How did you get that information?
MR. GRAFF: I could hear the CSO and the SSS talking back and forth.

By then everything was pretty much -- I was just standing back monitoring so I could pick up what was going around the room.

MR. JORDAN: And that was via Gaitronics? what communications did they use did you overhear?

MR. GRAFF: I think that they were on the radio
MR. JORDAN: Radio. Any communications in the control room that let people know that that's what their intention of doing and what they were doing?

MR. GRAFF: Yes, there was. They did updates and stuff. The sss would give an update and say this is what we are doing and what we are planning on doing.

MR. JORDAN: Did you have a feeling for when you knew when that was going to happen, the transfer?

MR. GRAFF: Actual time? No, I don't.
MR. JORDAN: I mean not the actual time -- that you knew that that was coming and that you were prepared for it?

MR. GRAFF: Yes.
MR. JORDAN: He let you know that?
MR. GRAFF: Yes.
MR. JORDAN: It wasn't just a monitoring of his radio that you found out about it?

MR. GRAFF: No, he did updates. This is what's going on and --

MR. JORDAN: Questions?
Okay, this is the good news, bad news kind of a question.

MR. GRAFF: Okay.
MR. JORDAN: It's the type of thing that says for the activities that you were involved with, what piece of equipment did you -- if there is a piece of equipment that you say, gee, I'm glad I had that, okay, because that really assisted me in accomplishing the work $I$ was assigned to.

The other end of it it says, gee, I wish I would have had this piece of equipment, okay, because it really would have helped me accomplishing my missions and that can be a myriad of things.

MR. KAUFFMAN: Could be knowledge, procedures,

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training --
MR. JORDAN: Training procedures --
MR. KAUFFMAN: -- flashlight for walking around in the dark.

MR. JORDAN: The classic example is the guy that goes out in the plant, says gee, I'm glad this wrench was hanging on this valve because when $I$ went to operate the valve I needed the wrench and the other guy that goes out there in the plant and says, gee, $I$ wish that wrench -that valve would have had a wrench hanging on it because when I operated I had to go in and get a wrench and it would have been of more benefit to me to have the wrench hanging there.

It can be training. It can be procedures -- and it can be nothing. You may say there was nothing really that was of more benefit than what was normal in the control room.

MR. GRAFF: Oh, I wish I could have been able to feed with the normal 55 or LV10.

MR. KAUFFMAN: How important was that to you?
MR. GRAFF: Well, at first $I$ was like worried how to get water in.

MR. KAUFFMAN: Would you like to have known that that valve probably wouldn't stroke back open?

MR. GRAFF: Yes, I would have liked it. I would
have liked to have known that.
MR. KAUFFMAN: But you'd have still been stuck by a procedure telling you to shut it?

MR. GRAFF: I wouldn't have been -- right. If I knew I think I would have started it without shutting it, if I knew, because the worst part is I waited before I opened the 137 because I thought that valve was going open because I had green and red light.

It was -- level wasn't going down but it wasn't going back up so the 137 -- I didn't know if I'd have enough feed to start going up so we kept trying to get the 84 open. Then the thing $I$ guess I'm glad is that the 137 was enough feed to recover level.

MR. KAUFFMAN: But if that 137 hadn't gone open, would that have been a big problem?

MR. GRAFF: If it hadn't?
MR. KAUFFMAN: If it had not.
MR. GRAFF: Well --
MR. KAUFFMAN: Were there other sources of water available or other pumps?

MR. GRAFF: Yes and there was also another path through the feed system. I think it is 120 which is in parallel with the 137, but it is a seal-in valve and once you go to open, that would have overfed the vessel, but if worse came to worse, that would have been another way to use
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the feed system.
MR. JORDAN: Is there a procedure for using that valve?

MR. GRAFF: No.
MR. JORDAN: That's just strictly knowledge on how to operate the system?

MR. GRAFF: Well, the reason $I$ know is during construction someone opened that before and overfed the vessel, so that's just because I know it happened before.

MR. JORDAN: Do you think that should be in a procedure someplace, to use that valve in a last-ditch effort?

MR. GRAFF: You have no control. You're just going to feed right up, so you have other ways --

MR. JORDAN: Did you train on that valve being there and how to operate it?

MR. GRAFF: Yes. I can say almost everybody knows that if you open that it is a seal-in and it's going full open. I think it is 120. I'm not positive. 120, maybe 122.

MR. JORDAN: I was just curious. What I was wondering about is --

MR. GRAFF: That bypasses. The 137 bypasses the feed pumps and so does that and they are both in parallel with each other.

MR. JORDAN: And you get training on that?
MR. GRAFF: Yes. I know at the same time that when $I$ was doing the level control we had a person on the RCIC system who was also putting in water and we communicated back and forth. It was Brian Hilliker and between the two of us, as $I$ was feeding he was cutting back his feed, so that I could take control.

MR. JORDAN: Okay, any other good news/bad news things, things that you'd like, things you wish worked differently?

MR. GRAFF: Not really. I think everything went pretty good.

MR. KAUFFMAN: I have one followup question, just occurred to me.

There was a point early on, maybe you weren't on the panel, but there was a point early on and maybe you were on the panel when it happened, but there was a point early on where RCIC tripped on Level 8 and --

MR. GRAFF: That was before me.
MR. KAUFFMAN: Okay.
MR. GRAFF: I knew that they hit the high level because there is three lights for Level 8 on the panel, so those were in, but that was before $I$ even came in.

MR. JORDAN: The final question that $I$ have anyway is is there anything that you know of that you think it

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would be of benefit for the team to know that we haven't covered?

MR. GRAFF: Not that I know of.
MR. JORDAN: I think you already said something on the turning gear but we already knew about that, so, okay, we can go off the record.
[Whereupon, at 3:58 p.m., the taking of the
interview was concluded.]

## REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceedlings before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
in the matter of:
NAME OP PROCEEDING: Int. of JIM GRAFF
DOCKET NUMBER:
PLACE OP PROCEEDING: Scribe, N. Y .
were held as herein appears, and that this is the original transcript thereof for the file of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission taken by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under the direction of the court reporting company, and that the transcript is a true and accurate record of the foregoing proceedings.


IAN ROTHROCK
Official Reporter Ann Riley \& Associates, It.

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## ORIGINAL

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07-98 A-91
$$ OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS .

Agency: Nuclear Regulatory Commission Incident Investigation Team<br>Title: \(\quad \begin{aligned} \& Nine Mile Point Nuclear<br>\& Interview of: JIM GRAF F\end{aligned}\)

## Docket No.

LOcATION: Scriba, New York

DATE: Wednesday, August 21, 1991
PAGES: 1 - 23

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Exhibit 3-1 (continued)


# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION 

 INCIDENT INVESTIGATION TEAMInterview of : JIM GRAFF :
(Closed) :
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Conference Room B
Administration Building Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Plant, Unit Two

Lake Road
Scriba, New York 13093
Wednesday, August 21, 1991

The interview commenced, pursuant to notice, at 3:32 p.m.

PRESENT FOR THE IIT:
Michael Jordan, NRC
John Kauffman, NRC
PROCEEDINGS

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[3: 32 \text { p.m.] }
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MR. JORDAN: Good afternoon. It's August 21st, 1991. It's 3:30 in the afternoon.

We are at the Nine Mile Point, Unit Two, in the $P$ building. We are conducting interviews concerning the transient that occurred on August 13th, 1991.

My name is Michael Jordan. I am with the NRC, out of Region. III.

MR. KAUFFMAN: John Kauffman, out of NRC headquarters.

MR. GRAFF: I'm Jim Graff. I'm a reactor operator at Nine Mile Point, Two.

MR. JORDAN: Okay, Jim. Can you just give me an idea what your background is?

MR. GRAFF: Okay. I was a reactor operator for six years in the Navy and I got out in 1982.

I was hired for Unit Two but before that they sent us over to unit one. I licensed there as a reactor operator and then $I$ came over to Unit Two and I have been licensed here for five to six years -- I don't know exactly. MR. JORDAN: Do you know when you licensed on Unit One?

MR. GRAFF: Like '83 or ' 84.
I got out of the Navy in 182 , so $I$ have been here
almost nine years.
MR. JORDAN: So you are an RO?
MR. GRAFF: Yes.
MR. JORDAN: Okay. Are you on midshifts or were you on day shifts?

MR. GRAFF: I just came in that morning for day shift.

MR. JORDAN: Okay. Why don't you give us an idea what time you showed up and just walk us through, as you came through the gate.

MR. GRAFF: Okay. I got there just after 6:00 and the Security guards wouldn't let me in so I called the control room, got the ASSS that was coming on shift to tell them to let me in, so they let me in and I got to the control room about 6:10 and the first thing the sss told me to do was to send someone down to locally find out what condenser vacuum was, because --

MR. JORDAN: Can I ask you, as you traversed through the gates up to the control room, did you go directly to the control room to the locker room?

MR. GRAFF: Directly to the control room. I knew something was wrong.

MR. JORDAN: In Your traversing to the control room, can you give us an idea of the way you went and what the lighting was like between --

MR. GRAFF: The emergency lighting was on in the staircase $I$ went up by the elevator there in the control building. I went up the stairs there and I could tell all the emergency lighting was on and everything else was off.

MR. JORDAN: When you say emergency lighting,
there's battery packs in the wall?
MR. GRAFF: Right.
MR. JORDAN: Those were on?
MR. GRAFF: Yes -- well, I don't even think those
were on. I think the thing was pretty much dark.
MR. JORDAN: It was dark?
MR. GRAFF: Yes.
MR. JORDAN: The stairwell was dark?
MR. GRAFF: Right.
MR. JORDAN: Which stairwell did you go up?
MR. GRAFF: By the elevator there, control room elevator.

MR. JORDAN: What building is that called?
MR. GRAFF: It's really the aux service building, I guess you would call it.

MR. JORDAN: That's by the elevator?
MR. GRAFF: Right.
MR. JORDAN: You took the stairway or hallway to the --

MR. GRAFF: 306 elevation.

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MR. JORDAN: 306? That's the control room elevation?

MR. GRAFF: Yes.
MR. JORDAN: From the stairwell to the control room, lighting no problem or a problem?

MR. GRAFF: You could see but it was darker than normal.

MR. JORDAN: Okay, you get to the control room. How was the control room?

MR. GRAFF: It was quiet. All the lights were on though. At that time $I$ didn't know -- had no idea what had even happened.

MR. JORDAN: A lot of people in the control room? Did it look chaotic or did it look like they were -

MR. GRAFF: It was calm but I didn't know what was going on. There was the SSS, the ASSS, the cso was there and $I$ think at that time there was like four other ROs, four or five other ROs in the room.

MR. JORDAN: But it looked like everything was, communications were going well?

MR. GRAFF: Yes.
MR. JORDAN: Okay, I'm sorry, you say that you were assigned?

MR. GRAFF: The very first thing the sSS told me was -- I told him I'm available and the very first thing he
told me to find out what condenser vacuum was locally because the meters were failed downscale in the control room.

So I had come up with a non-licensed operator up the stairs so $I$ sent -- I went out. Well, first I tried to call him on the here-here and found out the here-here's didn't work and that's when everybody told me what happened.

I went out. He was in the hallway. They were going over to our room where the operators hang out, the Beehive there.

MR. JORDAN: Beehive.
MR. GRAFF: I told him we needed condenser vacuum locally so he went to go get it. I had given him a radio and then $I$ found out those didn't work either and he went down there an $I$ went back in the control room.

Before he even called back to tell me what it was, they had restored the UPS's, powered the UPS's at I would guess 630, 640, something like that.

We got vacuum indication back then.
MR. JORDAN: Okay?
MR. GRAFF: Okay, and then the SSS told me to get a condensate booster pump running to restore level and me and another RO, Chuck Gerberich, who was --

MR. JORDAN: Was this before or after the power

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had returned?
MR. GRAFF: I would say after. I can't say for sure but $I$ am pretty sure it was after the power had been returned.

MR. JORDAN: Did he say get condensate-condensate booster --

MR. GRAFF: The condensate booster pump running, so by that time there was a lot more operators in the control room and there was a couple -- I'm told a couple of non-licensed operators to go down, make sure the AA booster pumps are ready to run and one of them to go to the condemin panel to make sure everything looked all right there, so they took off to go do that and then maybe ten minutes, fifteen minutes later they called back and said everything looked good down there. We started the AA condensate booster pump up.

MR. JORDAN: Were no condensate booster pumps operating?

MR. GRAFF: Right. When $I$ went in there the only thing running was the AA condensate pump. Everything else was green flagged. I didn't know it at the time but afterwards they told me they had shut them off. I knew they didn't trip because they weren't red flagged. They were green flagged.

MR. JORDAN: So no condensate pumps tripped. Did
they turn off all the condensate water booster pumps?
MR. GRAFF: I guess they got up to level two -- or 202 inches in the vessel so they shut everything but the AA condensate pump off.

MR. KAUFFMAN: By "green flag" you mean the breaker position --

MR. GRAFF: Took it to stop. Right, if you go to stop you got a green flag.

MR. KAUFFMAN: You're not talking the light, you're talking the --

MR. GRAFF: Well, right. You have the green light.

MR. KAUFFMAN: Right.
MR. GRAFF: But you also have the green flag, right? If it tripped, if it was running and it tripped you would have the green light and a red flag.

MR. JORDAN: Okay, so all the green flags were aligned with the green lights --

MR. GRAFF: Right.
MR. JORDAN: Which indicated that they were turned off?

MR. GRAFF: Someone turned them off.
MR. JORDAN: So that any condensate pump running and you're getting ready to start the A condensate booster, right? okay.

MR. GRAFF: So we got the procedure out and we went per the startup procedure and later on that sort of messed us up a little, caused a problem later down the line after we got - well, we got the pump started and it started fine. Everything was good and reactor pressure at that time was like 640 or so and we had like 680 discharge pressure, the booster pump, and so we thought we were all ready to feed up and we tried feeding with an LB55 valve and we couldn't get any flow. I think level at this time was like 133 inches.

I wasn't getting flow so we tried the LV137 which has its own separate, that bypass -- well, we got the booster pump running and in the startup procedure for the booster pump one of the first things is to verify that the suction valves, the 84 valves, of the feed pump, shut those.

So those were shut --
MR. JORDAN: What were those numbers?
MR. GRAFF: 84s.
MR. JORDAN: 84 s to the suction to the --
MR. GRAFF: -- feed pump. I went to open on it and I had the green and the red light which I thought the valve was stroking open, so that's when I tried to feed while it was going open but $I$ didn't get an indication that I was feeding.

MR. JORDAN: Which valves did you try to open?

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MR. GRAFF: 84A.
MR. JORDAN: So originally you had closed them-MR. GRAFF: Per procedure.

MR. JORDAN: To start the A condensate booster pump?

MR. GRAFF: Right. We closed all three of them per procedure.

MR. JORDAN: Then after you got the pump operating --

MR. GRAFF: I attempted to open it.
MR. JORDAN: You tried to open the $84 s$ ?
MR. GRAFF: Right.
MR. JORDAN: And A84 and --
MR. GRAFF: -- and then $I$ had a red and a green light, indicating to me that the valve's gone open, so I'm figuring while it's partially open $I$ am going to try to feed, but I couldn't with the LV55. I couldn't get any flow in.

MR. JORDAN: The LV55s were closed?
MR. GRAFF: They were closed originally so -- and we also tried to feed with an LV10A which you have meters for flow indication and $I$ wasn't getting anything so we decided to go try the 137 , because that bypasses the feed pumps.

Then after a while we said, well, let's see what
happens when we go closed with the 84 valve and the close light immediately came on, indicating to us that it never stroked at all.

Once I opened the LV137, that has a separate meter. I was putting in about 600 gallons per minute and level was -- Mark Bodoh, he was monitoring reactor water level, and --

MR. JORDAN: How many gallons? What did you say?
MR. GRAFF: 600 -- and he told me we were increasing about one inch every five to ten minutes, level was going up. The sSS was happy with that because earlier he had told me not -- once I get feed established, not to feed to fast because he didn't want to cool down too fast, so we had a good feed rate and we were in control of it.

MR. JORDAN: About one inch per minute?
MR. GRAFF: About one inch every five minutes $I$ would say it was going up.

MR. JORDAN: Sorry, go ahead.
MR. KAUFFMAN: Do you have any explanation for why the 84 valve didn't open?

MR. GRAFF: I think there's just too much of a differential pressure across the valve and the procedure that we were using was assuming the system shut down and there is a manual bypass valve around the 84 and we asked the SSS can we send someone out there but at the time they
didn't know what the radiation levels in the turbine building were because all the radiation monitoring wad down because of the problem, so he said no, as long as we are feeding with the 137 we are not going to send anybody in to open that bypass.

Normally you would open the bypass and then open that valve and close the bypass but the procedure we were using was for starting up cold.

MR. KAUFFMAN: Do you happen to know the number of that procedure?

MR. GRAFF: I think it is OPE-3.
MR. JORDAN: Is that your normal startup procedure?

MR. GRAFF: Yes, for condensate system.
MR. JORDAN: Okay, so now you got the AA condensate pump on. You've got the AA condensate booster pump on.

MR. GRAFF: Okay -- then some time in there --
MR. JORDAN: You are feeding through the LV137--
MR. GRAFF: Right.
MR. JORDAN: -- water is going to come up about an inch per five minutes.

MR. GRAFF: The we got an annunciator for high starter temperature on the $A A$ condensate pump, so we told the $S S S$ that and we all decided -- well, he told us just get
another condensate pump running, so we started the $B$ condensate pump and within five minutes that starter water high temperature alarm had cleared and when we started that our discharge pressure out the booster pump went up to like 740, 760, so that increased our feed a little bit more. MR. KAUFFMAN: Do you have an explanation for why starting that pump would have caused the pump starter water temperature to come down?

MR. GRAFF: Yeah, it was working too hard. It was supplying all the suction for the booster pump.

MR. JORDAN: How do you normally operate? Do you normally operate -- 12 on 1,3 on 1 ?

MR. GRAFF: Normally we, up at power, 100 percent power, we have three condensate pumps and two booster pumps. MR. JORDAN: And how many feed? MR. GRAFF: Two. MR. JORDAN: Two feedwater pumps. MR. GRAFF: Right.
MR. JORDAN: Okay -- discharge from the condensate, from the booster pump increased after starter -how did the flow increase? The flow go up also? MR. GRAFF: A little bit, yes, 50, maybe 50 gallons per MOR. It's basically the same flow rate -- or basically the same feed rate, a little better. MR. JORDAN: Okay.

MR. GRAFF: The rest of the time I monitored water level increasing, and kept the SSS informed and meanwhile he told another RO, R.J. Reynolds, to commence a cooldown, so he was doing that and the two of us were sort of working together because as he cooled down I was feeding more.

MR. JORDAN: Does this got an automatic level controller?

MR. GRAFF: Yes, it does.
MR. JORDAN: That you can put it on? Did you put it on level or did you maintain manual?

MR. GRAFF: I maintained manual. It was full open the whole time until we started to get up close to the band. Then he gave me a band of 159.3 to 202.3 and we ended up getting in a normal band and stabilizing and putting it in auto.

MR. JORDAN: But you did put it in auto?
MR. GRAFF: Yes.
MR. JORDAN: And it looked okay in auto, it

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MR. GRAFF: It was fine.
MR. JORDAN: It looked good in auto?
MR. GRAFF: Right.
MR. JORDAN: Do you have any idea about what time that was?

MR. GRAFF: No, I don't. I told the sSS. He might


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have logged it. I don't know.
MR. JORDAN: So you got up to between 159.3 and 202.3 and put it in auto and how did the rest of your day go?

MR. GRAFF: It was pretty slow really. We had a lot of coverage there because we had three shifts on, coming in on days.

MR. JORDAN: Did you feel restrained, like people were backing around you and you couldn't do your work?

MR. GRAFF: Actually $I$ thought that everybody did good. They communicated, everybody worked together. They did fine.

At one point they made an announcement anybody not doing anything that's not responsible to please leave, so that cleared out and shortly after that, once we knew it was in auto, you know, I told the cso everything and I left too, just to keep down the congestion.

MR. JORDAN: Are you on normal days? Are you a relief?

MR. GRAFF: I am a relief operator. MR. JORDAN: You are a relief operator? MR. GRAFF: Yes.
MR. JORDAN: As a relief operator, what does that -- are you assigned a normal rotating shift or you're on days --

MR. GRAFF: You cover for vacations when people go on vacation or are sick. You cover for the Ro position.

MR. JORDAN: But normally you come in days and if everything is hunky-dory, peachy-keen you just come in and you are available?

MR. GRAFF: Right, you assist the shift that is on.

MR. JORDAN: So once you were no longer needed, you turn the responsibility for the feedwater to the --

MR. GRAFF: Right. It was in auto and the cso knew it and his control room $E$ knew it so they monitored it. MR. JORDAN: And you left. Do you know what time you left the control room?

MR. GRAFF: No, I don't.
MR. JORDAN: During this time any piece of equipment not functioning the way you anticipated it to function?

MR. GRAFF: the 84 valves.
MR. JORDAN: But that you said--
MR. GRAFF: NOW I know why but at the time we were wondering why aren't we getting any feed because we thought that valve was going open, you know?

MR. JORDAN: Okay, any other pieces of equipment not functioning well?

MR. GRAFF: I knew they were having trouble with

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the turning gear but $I$ wasn't involved in it in any way. I was taking care of the feed system but, you know, the person that was talking to them on the radio was a few feet from me.

MR. JORDAN: Okay. Do you know if they transferred power from the maintenance power on the UPS's back to normal power when you were in the control room?

MR. GRAFF: Yes. I remember them doing that. MR. JORDAN: How did you get that information? MR. GRAFF: I could hear the cSo and the sSS talking back and forth.

By then everything was pretty much -- I was just standing back monitoring so $I$ could pick up what was going around the room.

MR. JORDAN: And that was via Gaitronics? What communications did they use did you overhear?

MR. GRAFF: I think that they were on the radio
MR. JORDAN: Radio. Any communications in the control room that let people know that that's what their intention of doing and what they were doing?

MR. GRAFF: Yes, there was. They did updates and stuff. The SSS would give an update and say this is what we are doing and what we are planning on doing.

MR. JORDAN: Did you have a feeling for when you knew when that was going to happen, the transfer?

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MR. GRAFF: Actual time? No, I don't.
MR. JORDAN: I mean not the actual time -- that you knew that that was coming and that you were prepared for it?

MR. GRAFF: Yes.
MR. JORDAN: He let you know that?
MR. GRAFF: Yes.
MR. JORDAN: It wasn't just a monitoring of his radio that you found out about it?

MR. GRAFF: No, he did updates. This is what's going on and --

MR. JORDAN: Questions?
Okay, this is the good news, bad news kind of a question.

MR. GRAFF: Okay.
MR. JORDAN: It's the type of thing that says for the activities that you were involved with, what piece of equipment did you -- if there is a piece of equipment that you say, gee, I'm glad I had that, okay, because that really assisted me in accomplishing the work $I$ was assigned to.

The other end of it it says, gee, I wish I would have had this piece of equipment, okay, because it really would have helped me accomplishing my missions and that can be a myriad of things.

MR. KAUFFMAN: Could be knowledge, procedures,
training --
MR. JORDAN: Training procedures --
MR. KAUFFMAN: -- flashlight for walking around in the dark.

MR. JORDAN: The classic example is the guy that goes out in the plant, says gee, I'm glad this wrench was hanging on this valve because when $I$ went to operate the valve $I$ needed the wrench and the other guy that goes out there in the plant and says, gee, I wish that wrench -that valve would have had a wrench hanging on it because when $I$ operated I had to go in and get a wrench and it would have been of more benefit to me to have the wrench hanging there.

It can be training. It can be procedures -- and it can be nothing. You may say there was nothing really that was of more benefit than what was normal in the control room.

MR. GRAFF: Oh, I wish I could have been able to feed with the normal 55 or LV10.

MR. KAUFFMAN: How important was that to you?
MR. GRAFF: Well, at first $I$ was like worried how to get water in.

MR. KAUFFMAN: Would you like to have known that that valve probably wouldn't stroke back open?

MR. GRAFF: Yes, I would have liked it. I would
have liked to have known that.
MR. KAUFFMAN: But you'd have still been stuck by a procedure telling you to shut it?

MR. GRAFF: I wouldn't have been -- right. If I knew I think $I$ would have started it without shutting it, if I knew, because the worst part is I waited before I opened the 137 because I thought that valve was going open because I had green and red light.

It was -- level wasn't going down but it wasn't going back up so the 137 -- I didn't know if I'd have enough feed to start going up so we kept trying to get the 84 open.

Then the thing I guess I'm glad is that the 137
was enough feed to recover level.
MR. KAUFFMAN: But if that 137 hadn't gone open, would that have been a big problem?

MR. GRAFF: If it hadn't?
MR. KAUFFMAN: If it had not.
MR. GRAFF: Well --
MR. KAUFFMAN: Were there other sources of water available or other pumps?

MR. GRAFF: Yes and there was also another path through the feed system. I think it is. 120 which is in parallel with the 137, but it is a seal-in valve and once you go to open, that would have overfed the vessel, but if worse came to worse, that would have been another way to use

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the feed system.
MR. JORDAN: Is there a procedure for using that valve?

MR. GRAFF: No.
MR. JORDAN: That's just strictly knowledge on how to operate the system?

MR. GRAFF: Well, the reason $I$ know is during construction someone opened that before and overfed the vessel, so that's just because I know it happened before.

MR. JORDAN: Do you think that should be in a procedure someplace, to use that valve in a last-ditch effort?

MR. GRAFF: You have no control. You're just going to feed right up, so you have other ways --

MR. JORDAN: Did you train on that valve being there and how to operate it?

MR. GRAFF: Yes. I can say almost everybody knows that if you open that it is a seal-in and it's going full open. I think it is 120. I'm not positive. 120, maybe 122.

MR. JORDAN: I was just curious. What $I$ was wondering about is --

MR. GRAFF: That bypasses. The 137 bypasses the feed pumps and so does that and they are both in parallel with each other.

MR. JORDAN: And you get training on that?
MR. GRAFF: Yes. I know at the same time that when $I$ was doing the level control we had a person on the RCIC system who was also putting in water and we communicated back and forth. It was Brian Hilliker and between the two of us, as $I$ was feeding he was cutting back his feed, so that $I$ could take control.

MR. JORDAN: Okay, any other good news/bad news things, things that you'd like, things you wish worked differently?

MR. GRAFF: Not really. I think everything went pretty good.

MR. KAUFFMAN: I have one followup question, just occurred to me.

There was a point early on, maybe you weren't on the panel, but there was a point early on and maybe you were on the panel when it happened, but there was a point early on where RCIC tripped on Level 8 and --

MR. GRAFF: That was before me.
MR. KAUFFMAN: Okay.
MR. GRAFF: I knew that they hit the high level because there is three lights for Level 8 on the panel, so those were in, but that was before $I$ even came in.

MR. JORDAN: The final question that $I$ have anyway is is there anything that you know of that you think it

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would be of benefit for the team to know that we haven't covered?

MR. GRAFF: Not that I know of.
MR. JORDAN: I think you already said something on the turning gear but we already knew about that, so, okay, we can go off the record.
[Whereupon, at 3:58 p.m., the taking of the interview was concluded.]

## REPORTERS CERTEFEATE

This is to certify that the attached proceedlings before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
in the matter of:
NAME OF PROCEEDING: Int. of JIM GRAFF
DOCKET NUMBER:
PLACE OP PROCEEDING: Scribe, N. $\mathrm{Y}^{\prime \prime}$;
were held as herein appears, and that this is the original transcript thereof for tine file of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission taken by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under the direction of the court reporting company, and that the transcript is a true and accurate record of the foregoing proceedings.


IAN ROTHROCK
Official Reporter Ann Riley \& Associates, Ltd.

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