

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Agency: Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Incident Investigation Team

Title: Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Plant
Interview of: PHILLIP NICHOLS

Docket No.

LOCATION: Scriba, New York

DATE: Tuesday, August 20, 1991

PAGES: 1 - 23

ANN RILEY & ASSOCIATES, LTD.

1612 K St. N.W., Suite 300

Washington, D.C. 20006

(202) 293-3950.

~~9305070218~~



Exhibit 3-1 (continued)

-3-

ADDENDUM TO INTERVIEW OF Philip Nichols Aux Operator B
(Name/Position)

Page Line Correction and Reason for Correction

NO CORRECTIONS REQUESTED.

Page ___ of ___ Signature Philip R. Nichols Date 8/22/91

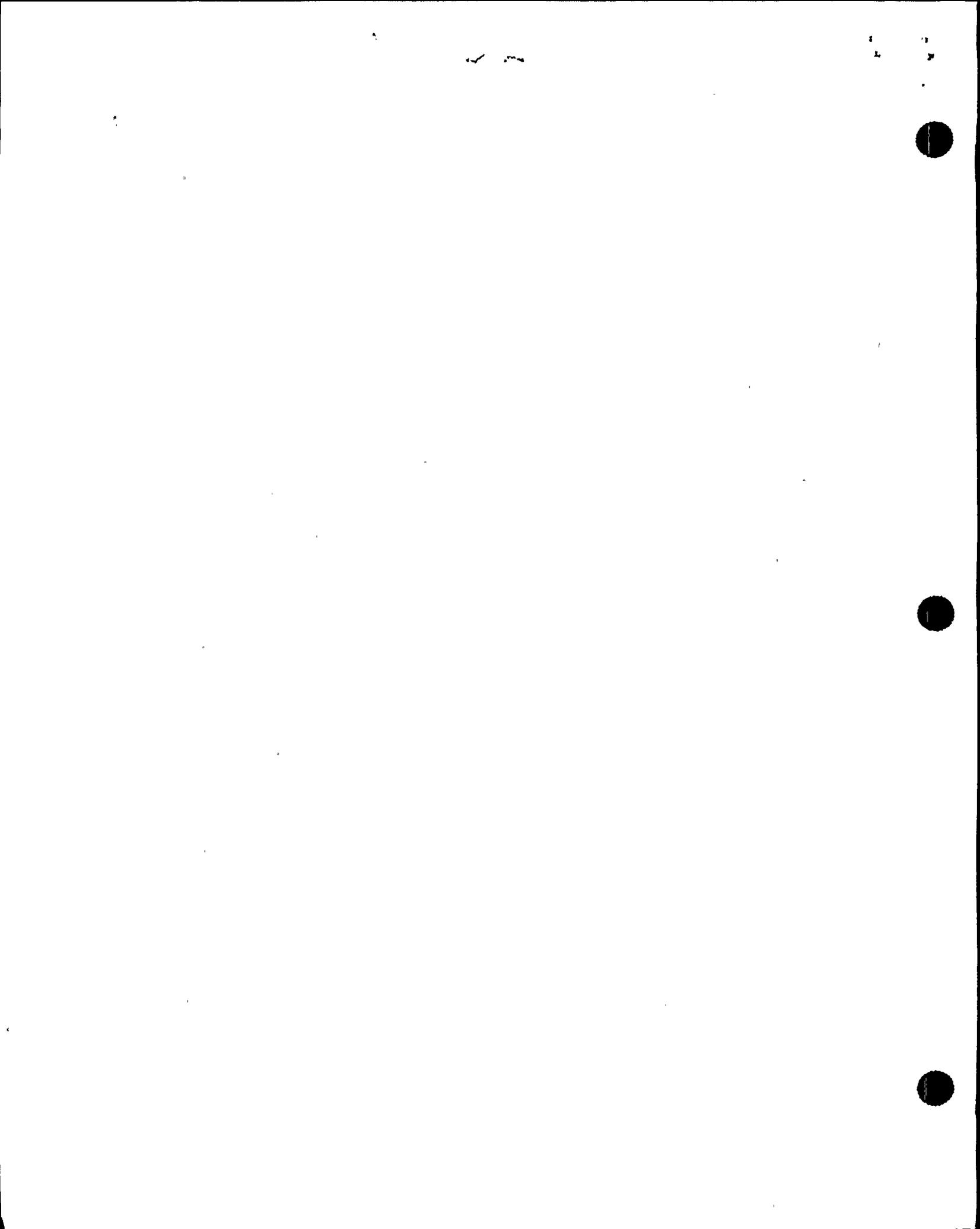
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
INCIDENT INVESTIGATION TEAM

Interview of :
PHILLIP NICHOLS :
(Closed) :

Conference Room B
Administration Building
Nine Mile Point Nuclear
Power Plant, Unit Two
Lake Road
Scriba, New York 13093
Tuesday, August 20, 1991

The interview commenced, pursuant to notice,
at 2:20 a.m.

PRESENT FOR THE IIT:
Michael Jordan, NRC
Rich Conte, INPO



P R O C E E D I N G S

[2:20 p.m.]

1
2
3 MR. JORDAN: Good afternoon. It's August the
4 20th, 1991 at 2:20 in the afternoon.

5 We are at the Nine Mile Point Unit Two P Building.

6 We are here to conduct an investigation into the
7 events of a transient that occurred on August 13th, 1991.

8 We are here to interview Phil Nichols.

9 My name is Michael Jordan. I am with the NRC out
10 of Region 3.

11 MR. CONTE: I am Rich Conte, Region 1.

12 MR. NICHOLS: My name is Phillip Nichols. I am an
13 aux operator, B.

14 MR. CONTE: Okay, Phil. Do you go by Phil or
15 Phillip?

16 MR. NICHOLS: Phil is just fine, thank you.

17 MR. JORDAN: Phil, why don't you give us a
18 background on what your experience is.

19 MR. NICHOLS: I was a naval nuclear machinist mate
20 for six years and then I started in the nuclear industry
21 down at Consolidated Edison in downstate New York. I worked
22 there as an auxiliary operator for four years and then last
23 year in '90 I came up here to Nine Mile Point Two, hired in
24 as auxiliary operator.

25 I have worked here for approximately one year.



1 MR. JORDAN: Okay. Were you licensed?

2 MR. NICHOLS: No. Non-licensed operator.

3 MR. JORDAN: Non-licensed operator at both
4 locations.

5 Okay, why don't you just in your own words give us
6 a rundown of what you saw, what you observed of the event or
7 transient?

8 MR. NICHOLS: Okay. At the time when it happened,
9 approximately time, it was approximately a quarter to six in
10 the morning, I was in the reactor building on 215 elevation
11 with Dave Hanczyk. We were hanging a markup on a part of
12 the RHS system. We were marking up a pressure indicator, I
13 believe, if it was at the time.

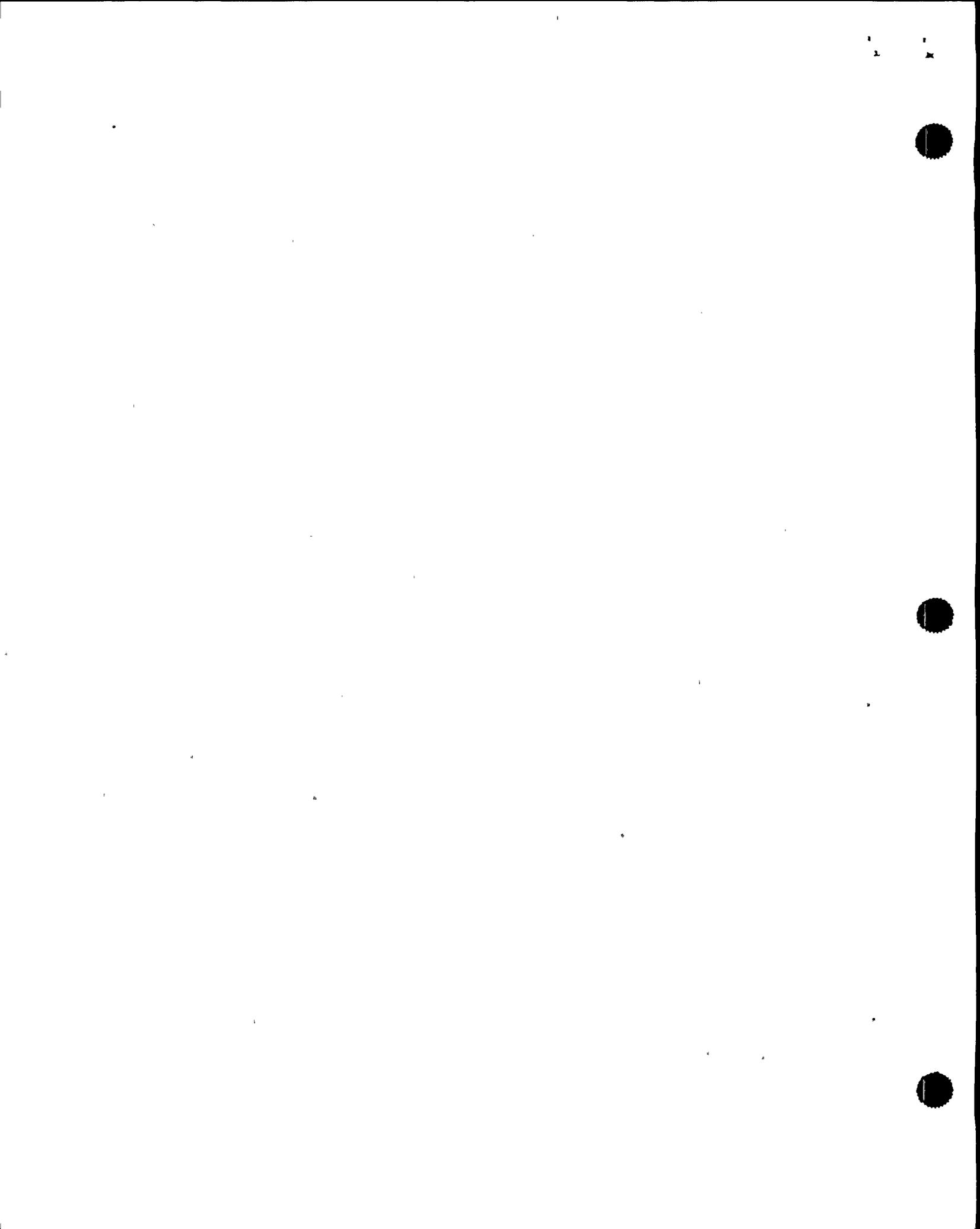
14 MR. JORDAN: RHS?

15 MR. NICHOLS: Yes. Residual heat removal system.

16 MR. JORDAN: Oh, okay.

17 MR. NICHOLS: Sorry -- and at the time when we
18 were at that portion of the markup of course the lights went
19 out and Dave Hanczyk was up on a platform -- you know,
20 second verifying the last part of a tag. Then he came down
21 and we then at that time exited the reactor building via the
22 south stairwell.

23 We originally thought to take the elevator but we
24 didn't want to chance it. We didn't know if the power would
25 be out for that also.



1 As soon as we got into the stairwell, you know, we
2 went up and then exited through the south exit way where the
3 frisk-alls are. You have become familiar with the Blue
4 Gooses and we took the few minutes to do that.

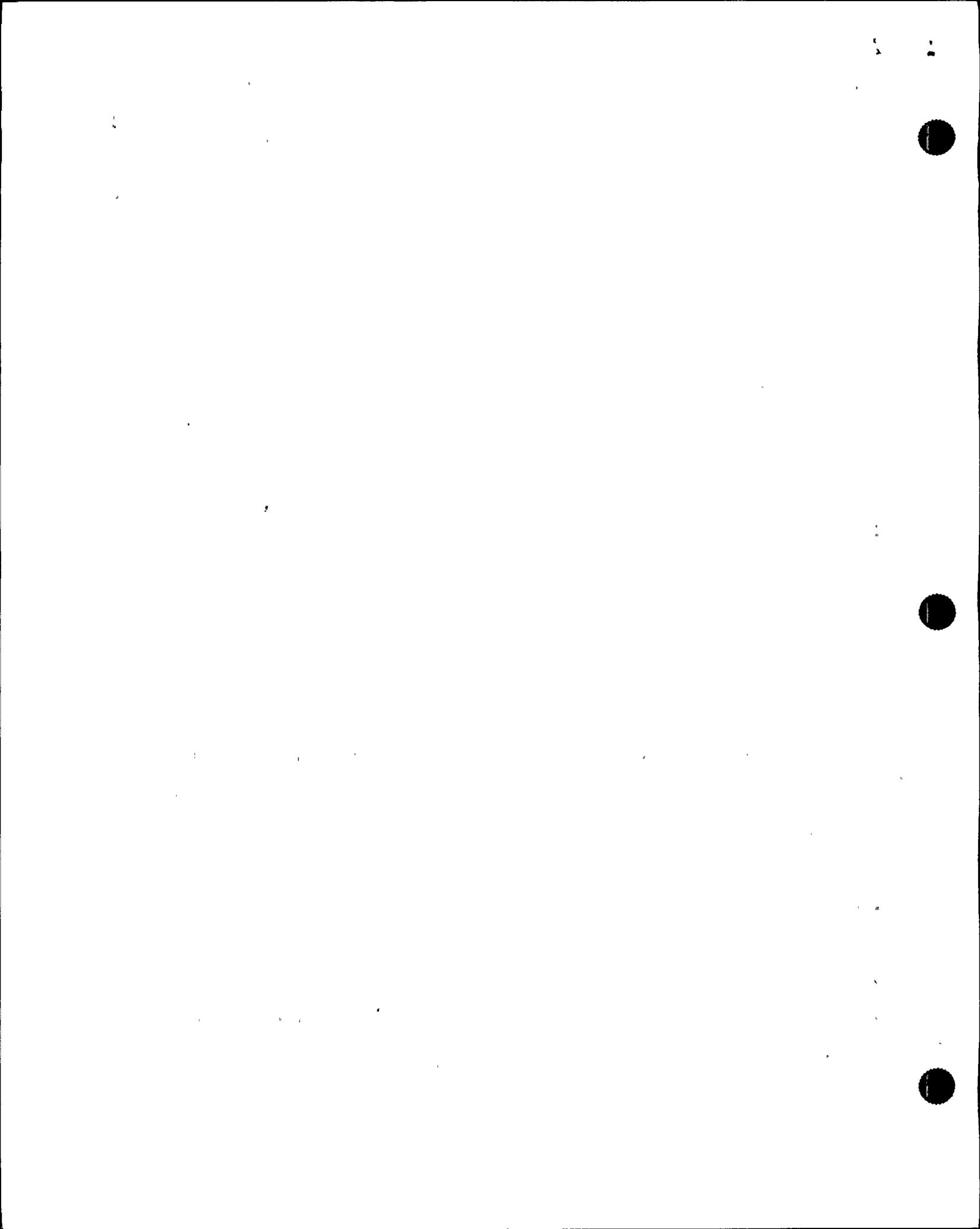
5 MR. JORDAN: They were operating?

6 MR. NICHOLS: Yes, they were operating. They did
7 have power. As soon as the lights went out they repowered
8 back up within a few seconds in the reactor building.
9 Stairwell lighting was out though. Didn't seem to have the
10 emergency power or anything come back on. It was dark, you
11 know. I had a flashlight of course, and that was good
12 enough to get us out.

13 From there we proceeded to go up to the control
14 room to find out, you know, the nature of the problem, to
15 see what we could do to assist.

16 After entering the control room Dave Hanczyk, I
17 split off from him. I didn't stay with him after that and I
18 stood there for a moment to get instructions from anyone at
19 the -- like the CSO or anything and they had their hands
20 full as far as that was concerned about what was going on in
21 the control room at the time.

22 I myself then, I'm not qualified very much because
23 I haven't been here that long, I just finished a six month
24 school, but there's a few things that the aux operators do,
25 like you know to go start the aux boiler and if the diesels



1 had started on such an emergency to go check the diesels to
2 make sure they were running properly and I was indicated as
3 somebody who already went to check the aux boilers. A part
4 of the system that goes along with it is the hot water
5 heating system and I went down to 261 to monitor that
6 because it's got nitrogen bottle -- it's got a nitrogen
7 charge on it that depletes very quickly when the system
8 trips off line and it starts to cool down and contract.

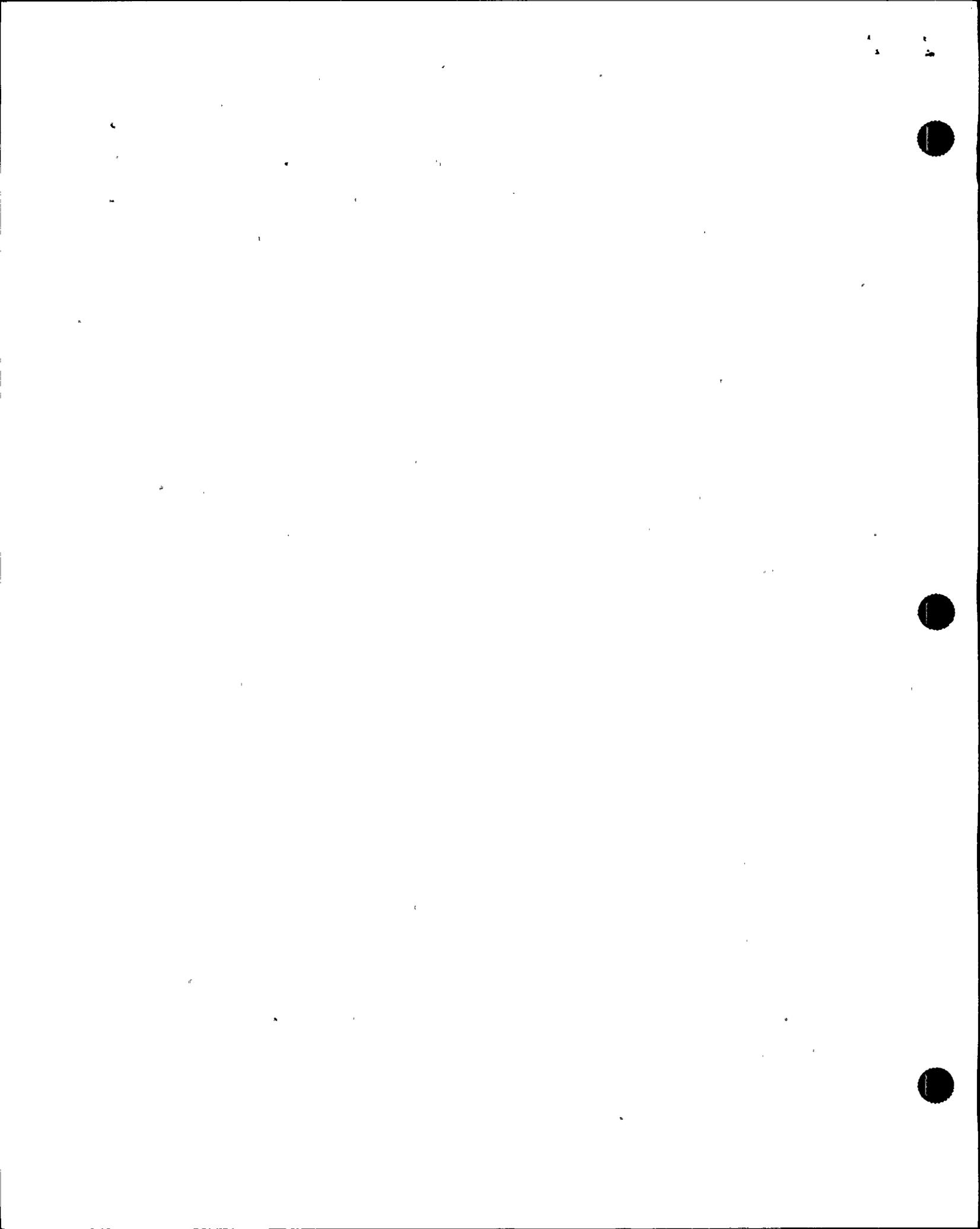
9 A guy was with me, a guy named Thomas Restuccio.
10 He's on shift. He's on the relief shift and he happened to
11 be on nights with us and he went with me and we were sort of
12 changing our nitrogen bottles as the system took in a lot of
13 nitrogen due to it cooling down.

14 I stayed there for I don't know, approximately 10
15 to 15 minutes, doing that, with him because we weren't --
16 there wasn't much else -- there was no instruction for us to
17 do much else. We couldn't communicate of course because
18 they found out that the Gaitronics and everything was non-
19 functional.

20 Then some people came down --

21 MR. CONTE: You said 261 elevation. What
22 building?

23 MR. NICHOLS: The aux service building. It's the
24 main pathway down to the cafeteria, maybe you are familiar
25 with it.



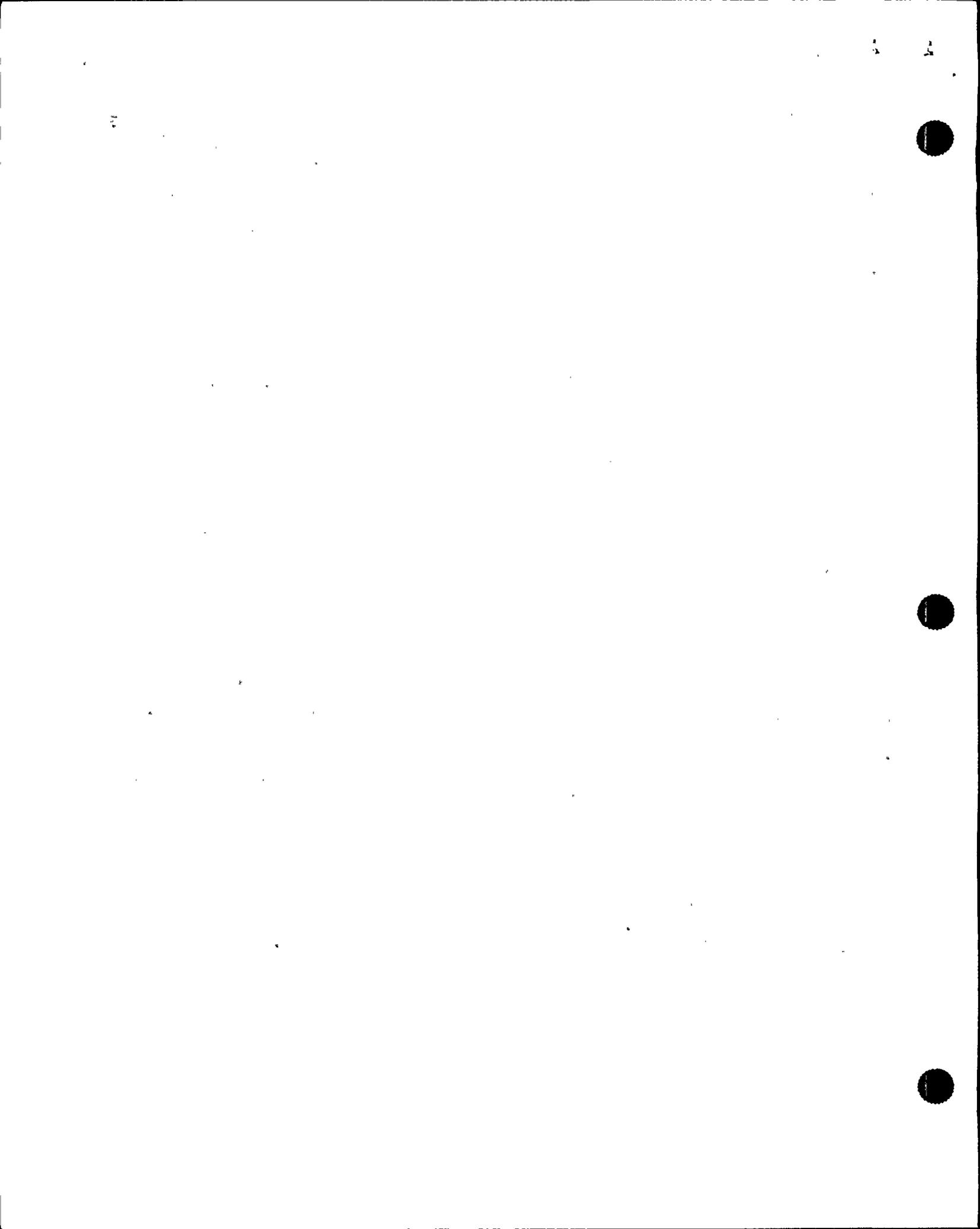
1 Then we -- some people came down the stairway into
2 that same passageway, Aaron Armstrong and Dave Hanczyk, and
3 they were on their way down to the UPS -- you know,
4 uninterruptable power supplies. They went down there so I
5 left Tom Restuccio with the nitrogen bottles because the
6 system had slowed down, eating up all the nitrogen
7 initially, and then I went with them to, you know, to assist
8 them any way I could.

9 When I went down there they were looking over the
10 UPS's and trying to use the procedures to bring them back on
11 line, and it just seemed to be that they couldn't get the
12 things to function no matter what they did.

13 You know, they were non-functional no matter what
14 part of the startup procedure or restoring that they used.
15 That is when they decided to just manually override the
16 maintenance power supply breaker. They pulled off the power-
17 operated cover that covers this breaker and they shut the
18 breakers on the four UPS's that were down there. That
19 restored power.

20 MR. JORDAN: Did you do it or did you observe --

21 MR. NICHOLS: I observed doing those UPS's when
22 they were down there because there was, jeez, there was half
23 a dozen guys there at least and then as soon as they
24 finished those I went down to 214 elevation with Dave
25 Hanczyk, followed him some of the way to UPS 1G -- that's



1 one of the last UPS's and then I -- we took the cover off
2 on that one and I shut that breaker because Dave Hanczyk
3 didn't seem to physically he couldn't do it and then from
4 there proceeded to go back to the control room.

5 At that time I wasn't aware of the time so I
6 couldn't tell you exactly how long it had been then, but I
7 went to the control room, spent maybe two or three minutes
8 there, and then left and went to the Beehive, you know, the
9 operators' staging room and waited for further instruction
10 there.

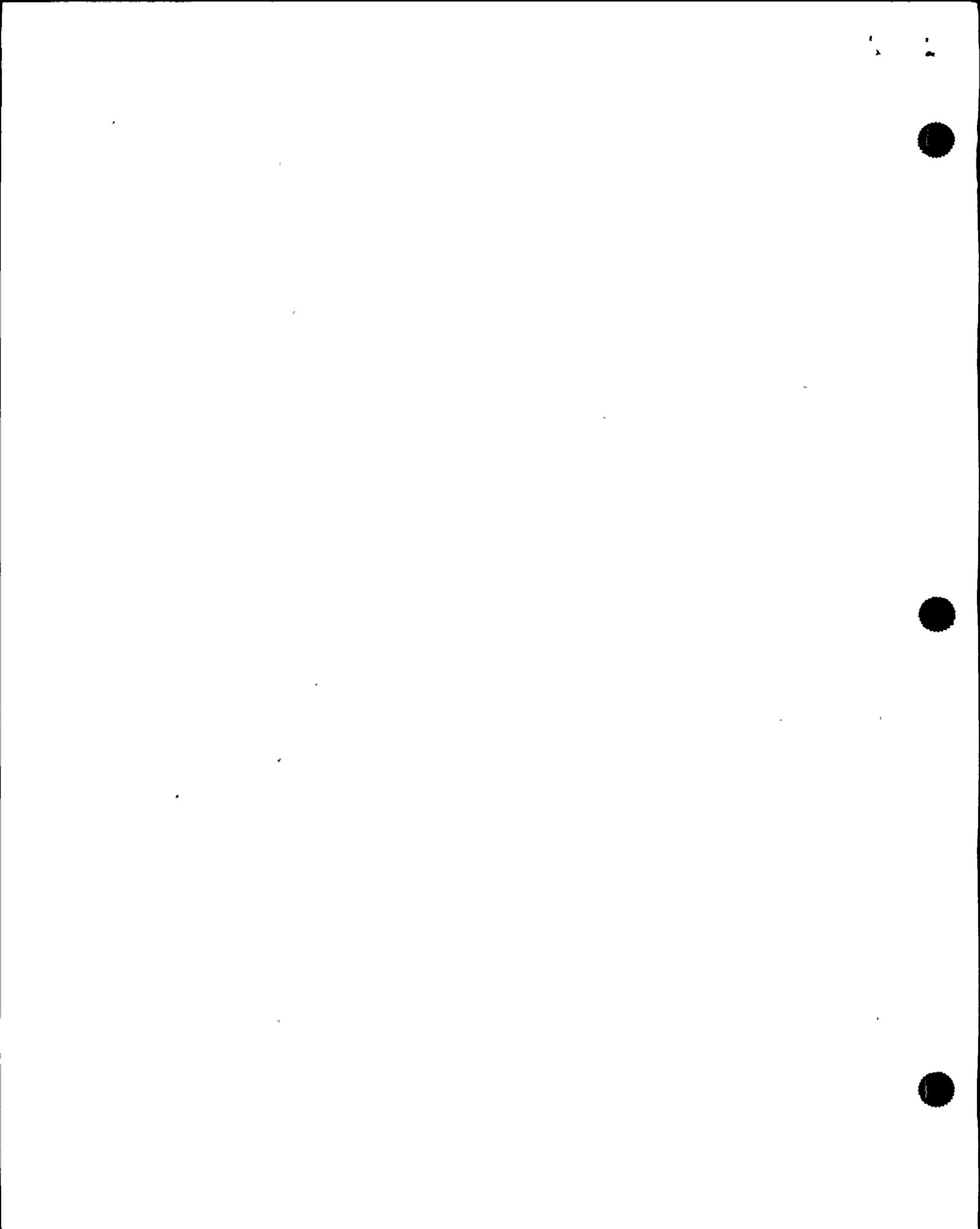
11 Told the CSO we were going to be there because he
12 seemed to have his hands pretty full still. Then afterwards
13 as far as I was concerned, they declared the site area
14 emergency and everything of course in between during that
15 time and we logged in and out of the control room of course
16 to be on our site recorders with the card readers.

17 I'm trying to think of the jobs I went out on.

18 MR. CONTE: Is the nature of the accountability
19 logging into the control room?

20 MR. NICHOLS: For the operators, for logging into
21 your areas that you are supposed to be in, and the operators
22 log into the control room to be on the computer as far as
23 accountability is concerned.

24 MR. CONTE: Is that going through the door or is
25 there a separate log-in?



1 MR. NICHOLS: No, going through the door was
2 considered to log in to the computer but -- I'm trying to
3 think.

4 One of the jobs I had to go on -- I only went on
5 like a couple more jobs. They pretty much didn't use me for
6 much. RCS-V145 was a valve I had to open. It's a sampling
7 isolation.

8 MR. CONTE: RCS?

9 MR. NICHOLS: V145.

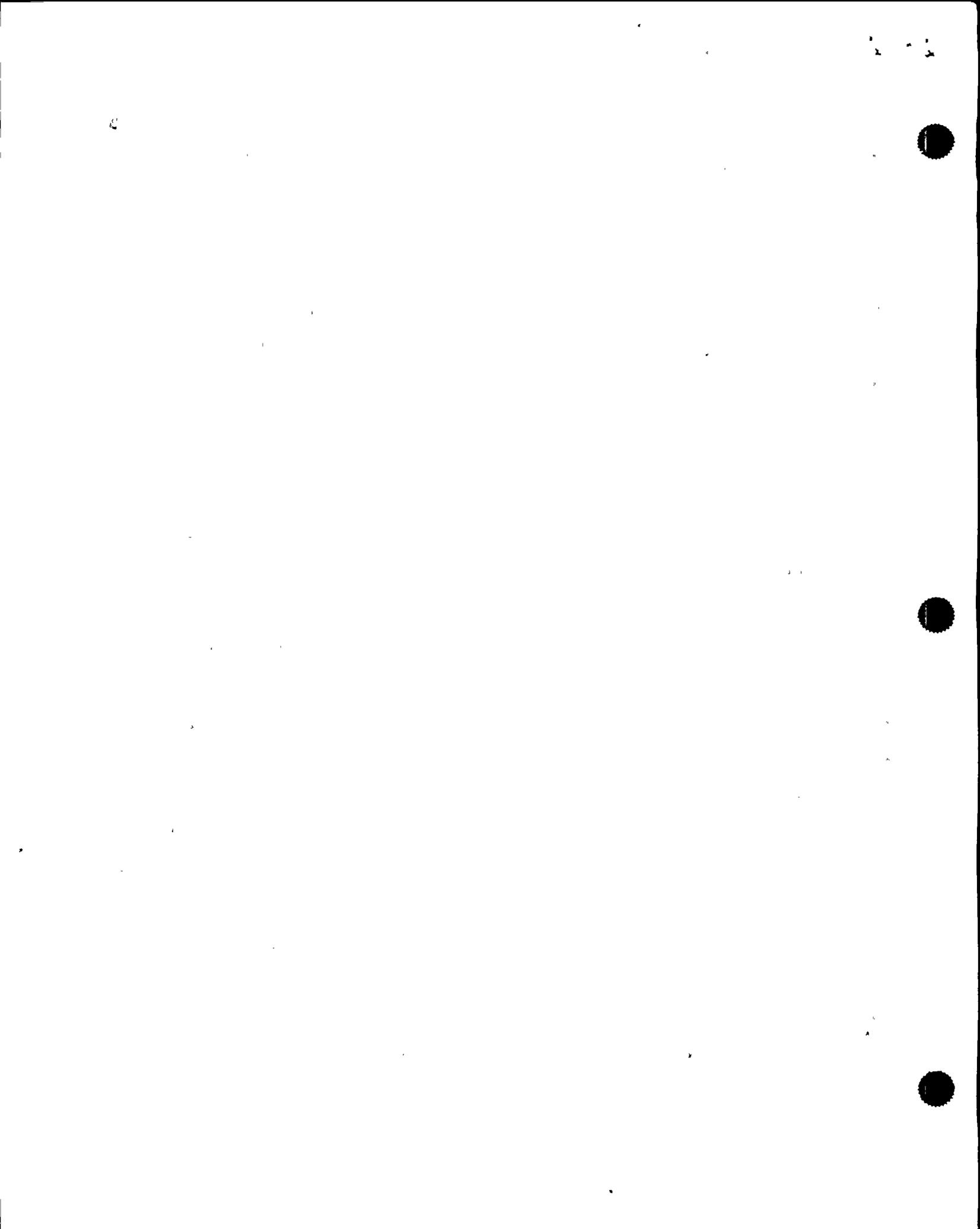
10 MR. CONTE: 145. Sample isolation?

11 MR. NICHOLS: Sample isolation in the reactor
12 building on 261 foot on the east side by the east -- they
13 come out the north HCU's but it's like northeast.

14 MR. CONTE: Northeast. At that time, 6:22, power
15 was restored. Did you notice anything unusual in the
16 lighting?

17 MR. NICHOLS: No. Not from being upstairs then.
18 Most of the lighting had restored itself, well, the floors
19 and lights of course and everything had come right back on
20 after the initial power loss but as far as emergency lights
21 was concerned, in isolated areas there wasn't much to notice
22 missing then because all the regular lights had come back
23 on.

24 MR. JORDAN: Was the opening of 145 -- the RCS
25 valve, was that okay? Did you do that?



1 MR. NICHOLS: Yes.

2 MR. JORDAN: Any problems noted?

3 MR. NICHOLS: No problems noted. Okay, now where
4 to?

5 MR. JORDAN: Was that open because, just as a
6 normal policy or procedure or was it the valve, motor
7 operated valve and you had to override the motor operation
8 on it?

9 MR. NICHOLS: No, it is a standard hand-operated
10 valve. It's a sampling isolation they have used recently.
11 As far as my lack of knowledge with the sampling system they
12 have been isolating recently within the last few months.
13 When they want chemistry samples they have someone go out
14 and open it and I can only assume they wanted it opened
15 immediately after this transient to find out of course if
16 there is any chemistry problems with the reactor vessel.

17 [Knocking at door, followed by short
18 interruption.]

19 MR. JORDAN: We went off the record because of an
20 interruption for requesting a coffee pot out of the office.

21 Okay, Phil. You were talking about the last
22 operation you did was the RCS VS145. You opened it, which
23 was a sample valve.

24 MR. NICHOLS: That's correct.

25 MR. JORDAN: What was the rest of the thing --



1 actions or that you did for the day?

2 MR. NICHOLS: After that there was -- that was
3 pretty much it.

4 I went back to the control room. After that --
5 well, I called the control room shortly thereafter to report
6 that operation and then I went back to the control room
7 after that and I declared some paperwork on the RHS markups
8 that we had hung.

9 During the course of the next hour they cleared
10 all those markups. I guess they wanted to restore the
11 system back to normal to make sure there was nothing that
12 may have caused any problems and then I had to sign off the
13 paperwork, the markup sheets, clearing those markups.

14 MR. JORDAN: You worked on clearing those markups?

15 MR. NICHOLS: Actually I had to sign the
16 paperwork, the original documents, to hang those markups
17 because you take working copies out in the field with you
18 and we got caught up in that and couldn't of course do that
19 at the time, and then to sign off so that the people who
20 removed all the markups could finish the paperwork, you
21 know, and have the restoration sheets and do it in proper
22 order, you know.

23 MR. JORDAN: You cleared the hanging of the
24 markups so they can clear -- they can de-hang them?

25 MR. NICHOLS: Correct. I know it's pretty unusual



1 when it goes like that, but that was pretty much it as far
2 as my involvement was concerned.

3 MR. CONTE: What did you do after you did the
4 paperwork on the markups? Were you allowed to go home?

5 MR. NICHOLS: Not at the time. I went back to the
6 Beehive, the staging area and then we waited till
7 approximately ten o'clock. At that time is when they
8 finally said that they really wouldn't need us anymore.

9 They still had the site area emergency on and then
10 we went -- on my shift all the auxiliary operators, we went
11 out to Security and tried to leave the site and they
12 wouldn't let us leave the site and we waited in the Security
13 for an hour until they got clearance through the control
14 room back through the EOF, you know, that were working the
15 operations. Then we finally left that day.

16 MR. JORDAN: What time was this?

17 MR. NICHOLS: That was approximately eleven
18 o'clock.

19 MR. CONTE: When you went into the UPS rooms, the
20 power supply room, you mentioned that you had just completed
21 training. Had you been all alone, would you have been able
22 to figure out how to get power downstream of those power
23 supplies using the override?

24 MR. NICHOLS: No.

25 MR. CONTE: Training didn't teach you anything



1 about how --

2 MR. NICHOLS: No, it didn't.

3 MR. CONTE: -- how to do that or that breaker?

4 MR. NICHOLS: No, we had been instructed on how
5 the power supply works and we had actually gone down from
6 training and looked at them about, you know, where certain
7 switches were, and we hadn't specifically gone through the
8 procedures on operating them, but the procedures are
9 relatively cookbook.

10 You know, there's some interpretation always for
11 everything, every procedure, to follow them, but as far as
12 pulling off that electro-operator that is on the cover of
13 the one, you know, the breaker, the two output breakers. I
14 don't think I would have guessed that, you know.

15 MR. CONTE: Okay, let me summarize what you said.
16 The extent of your training on the non-safety UPS supplies
17 was system training and classroom and perhaps go down to the
18 area and look at them, just for familiarization as to where
19 they were I guess.

20 MR. NICHOLS: Yes, that's it.

21 MR. CONTE: Is that correct?

22 MR. NICHOLS: That's correct.

23 MR. CONTE: If you were with Mr. Hanczyk when the
24 lights went out, it's extremely important that we get the
25 details of locations and levels. I am not sure we



1 established that real well with Dave so could you repeat
2 your path out of the reactor building and describing say the
3 elevations in buildings and what the conditions were in
4 terms of normal lighting, no emergency lighting, dark,
5 things like that?

6 Why don't you start -- in the reactor building you
7 said what elevation were you in in the reactor building?

8 MR. NICHOLS: We were on 215 foot elevation.

9 MR. CONTE: 215. Lights went out, is that
10 correct?

11 MR. NICHOLS: That's correct.

12 MR. CONTE: And then came back on?

13 MR. NICHOLS: Yes.

14 MR. CONTE: While you were walking out?

15 MR. NICHOLS: Yes, the sodium lamps started
16 restarting shortly right after, you know, the lights went
17 out. They of course a minute or two to get going.

18 We walked, looking at the reactor building, we
19 walked south to get to the elevator. We went to the
20 elevator first, and then we, you know, pushed the button and
21 waited for -- well, it couldn't have been 15 or 20 seconds.
22 It was on the second floor. The elevator was one floor
23 below us.

24 We waited for it to come up and it wasn't moving.
25 We assumed automatically that, you know, for whatever

22



1 electrically was wrong with the elevator, that it was stuck
2 on the second floor because usually it responds. It's going
3 to go one direction or the other.

4 I told Dave, I said I don't think it's going to be
5 worth waiting for. Then we walked back north to -- I know
6 this sounds like a little bit north to that south exit way,
7 the most south stairwell, and then we took that and went up
8 to 261 and it goes out that major, the frisk-out area, the
9 double trailers that are on the south side of the reactor
10 building.

11 We exited through there and then went straight
12 from there up to the control room.

13 MR. JORDAN: How was the lighting on the
14 stairwell?

15 MR. NICHOLS: It was totally black. I mean it
16 was--

17 MR. JORDAN: How about the lighting around where
18 the friskers were?

19 MR. NICHOLS: It was all light.

20 MR. JORDAN: All lit.

21 MR. NICHOLS: That was all energized.

22 MR. JORDAN: The stairwell?

23 MR. NICHOLS: The stairwell was totally black?

24 MR. JORDAN: And how about around the elevator?

25 MR. NICHOLS: Around the elevator was just the



1 regular lighting that was on and the sodium lamps coming
2 back on.

3 MR. JORDAN: So you got to the friskers. You
4 frisked out.

5 MR. NICHOLS: Yes.

6 MR. CONTE: I'm confused.

7 MR. JORDAN: Okay.

8 MR. CONTE: You were in the reactor building. You
9 went to the exit way. There was a stairwell at that exit
10 way to get up to 261 elevation?

11 MR. NICHOLS: Yes, yes.

12 MR. CONTE: That still was in the reactor
13 building?

14 MR. NICHOLS: Well, I suppose you could say as far
15 as the pressure boundary is concerned in the reactor
16 building --

17 MR. CONTE: Oh, I understand. You go through an
18 exit door and you are kind of in an annulus area.

19 MR. NICHOLS: Correct.

20 MR. CONTE: I understand that.

21 MR. NICHOLS: It actually sticks out from the
22 reactor building, if you are to look at that portion of the
23 building there, you know.

24 MR. CONTE: It's that green stack that kind of
25 goes up the side of the building?

22



1 MR. NICHOLS: Correct.

2 MR. CONTE: All right, and that was black?

3 MR. NICHOLS: Yes.

4 MR. CONTE: No emergency lights on in there?

5 MR. NICHOLS: No. I had my flashlight out and we
6 were watching the steps as we went up so we wouldn't kill
7 ourselves.

8 MR. CONTE: There was emergency lighting in that
9 stairway?

10 MR. NICHOLS: If I am not mistaken. I couldn't
11 say that for honest or sure. I can't guarantee that but I,
12 you know, believe there's emergency lights on almost every
13 square foot of this plant.

14 MR. CONTE: And then you came out at the 261.
15 Somehow you went out -- oh, you went up that stairway.

16 MR. NICHOLS: Went up the stairway.

17 MR. CONTE: And then you came out into where?

18 MR. NICHOLS: Into the south exit way, the
19 trailers. There is an exit that goes out there to that dual
20 set of trailers.

21 MR. CONTE: South exit. This is outside the
22 grounds then?

23 MR. NICHOLS: Outside the reactor building.

24 MR. CONTE: Outside the reactor --

25 MR. NICHOLS: Yes.

21



1 MR. CONTE: Okay. Then how did you go back into
2 the buildings?

3 MR. NICHOLS: We exited the trailers.

4 MR. CONTE: Okay.

5 MR. NICHOLS: And walked right back into the most
6 corner access way. It's like the aux service building right
7 there where you go right by the Cardox units.

8 MR. CONTE: What did you find in the aux service
9 building?

10 MR. NICHOLS: The lighting was on, if that is what
11 you mean.

12 MR. CONTE: Lighting was on?

13 MR. NICHOLS: Yes.

14 MR. CONTE: Then what?

15 MR. NICHOLS: We went to the elevator and used the
16 elevator. The elevator was on the ground floor and, you
17 know, happened to be. We pressed it and it opened up and it
18 took us up to the 306 elevation and then --

19 MR. CONTE: That's where the control room?

20 MR. NICHOLS: Correct. I went to the control
21 room.

22 MR. CONTE: Anything in that elevator? Was that
23 black? Just the elevator lights?

24 MR. NICHOLS: I can't remember if that was black
25 or not. I think it was black. I think the elevator lights



1 were out.

2 MR. CONTE: Mike? Can you think of anything?

3 MR. JORDAN: Yes. You mentioned you went with
4 Dave down to the UPS's and you tried to use procedure.

5 Did he have a procedure, did you have a procedure?

6 MR. NICHOLS: I was standing observing for the
7 most part with these other gentlemen I was with, Dave
8 Hanczyk had the procedure in hand and he was searching
9 through and found the portion for the restarts of the UPS's.
10 He actually went to a few different sets, parts of the
11 procedure, tried the restart and it didn't work.

12 MR. JORDAN: Do you have any idea what type of
13 things he did?

14 MR. NICHOLS: No. Just --

15 MR. JORDAN: What portions of the procedure he
16 did?

17 MR. NICHOLS: No. I wasn't like looking directly
18 over his shoulder watching what he was doing.

19 MR. JORDAN: Do you know if he documented in any
20 procedure the conditions of the UPS's before they operated
21 them?

22 MR. NICHOLS: I don't know.

23 MR. JORDAN: When you went to the G, just you and
24 he went to the G, right?

25 MR. NICHOLS: That's correct.



1 MR. JORDAN: Was there any documentation on that
2 observation before you operated the equipment to find out
3 the condition of the UPS before you operated it?

4 MR. NICHOLS: You mean as far as alarms are
5 concerned?

6 MR. JORDAN: Alarms or condition of breakers or
7 you know, which breakers were open, which breakers were
8 closed, which flags or whatever methods there are for
9 indicating?

10 MR. NICHOLS: All we did is, we didn't -- when we
11 went to UPS 1G we went to look at the alarms. The alarms
12 were I believe -- because when Dave Hanczyk looked at it
13 they were the same alarms that were on the other ones and I
14 can't specifically remember them myself. It was like the --
15 well, to name them I would be incorrect.

16 MR. JORDAN: Okay.

17 MR. NICHOLS: There was only a couple of alarms
18 that were on then, and then we went right to, of course, the
19 maintenance power supply and energized it.

20 MR. JORDAN: But it's more of an observation than
21 observation and documentation?

22 MR. NICHOLS: Correct.

23 MR. JORDAN: Okay. Well, the obvious thing is
24 going to be is try to lead us through the lighting then that
25 you left from the control room down to the UPS's. Can you



1 give us an idea of where you were, elevation, what buildings
2 you go through, stairwells, hallways and lighting and non-
3 lighting to the best of your knowledge?

4 MR. NICHOLS: Okay. To get down to the UPS's, 237
5 foot is the elevation. To get down to that from the --

6 MR. CONTE: Start from the control room.

7 MR. NICHOLS: Oh, from the control room? I'd come
8 back to the control room.

9 Okay, we -- oh, I was in the hallway actually,
10 down in 261. That's where I picked him up from so --

11 MR. CONTE: So 261 of the aux service building.

12 MR. NICHOLS: Of the aux service building.

13 MR. CONTE: You picked up Hanczyk.

14 MR. NICHOLS: We entered the --

15 MR. CONTE: That was black?

16 MR. NICHOLS: Actually it was lit in there.

17 MR. CONTE: It was?

18 MR. NICHOLS: Yes, in the aux service building.

19 MR. JORDAN: Is that lit by lights or lit because
20 of outside light?

21 MR. NICHOLS: Lit by regular lights.

22 MR. JORDAN: Lit by the regular lights.

23 MR. NICHOLS: And we went into the switch gear
24 building, the most -- say there's two portions of the switch
25 gear building, the most east portion of the switch gear



1 building, and --

2 MR. CONTE: I'm sorry, hold up. I'm a little
3 confused. We ended up with you came out of the elevator in
4 the aux service building at the 306 elevation in the control
5 room, towards the control room.

6 There is a discrepancy. Which elevation did you
7 run into Hanczyk? 261 or 306?

8 MR. NICHOLS: 261.

9 MR. CONTE: Why?

10 MR. NICHOLS: When I went up to the control room--

11 MR. CONTE: Oh, you both went up the elevator to
12 306.

13 MR. NICHOLS: To 306. We both went up the
14 elevator to 306. I split with him at the control room. We
15 went into the control room and then he went on his way about
16 doing his RO duties. I waited there for a moment and then I
17 went down with Tom Restuccio, down to 261, myself to work on
18 that portion of the hot water heating system, the nitrogen
19 portion.

20 MR. CONTE: Take us to the UPS then, how you ran
21 into Hanczyk?

22 MR. NICHOLS: From the nitrogen portion of the UPS
23 system, which is in the aux service building in the hallway,
24 we -- you have to go on the north -- I mean, excuse me, the
25 east building of the switchgear building, the east part, and



1 between the two buildings, between the two portions of the
2 switch gear building, there is a stairway that goes down to
3 237 foot elevation.

4 We took the stairway down. That stairway was
5 totally black. There was no lighting in the stairway. There
6 was full lighting in the switch gear building. We went down
7 to 237 foot and exited there and that goes to the west
8 portion of the switch gear building on 237. That is where
9 the UPS systems are.

10 Then when we went into that portion then I of
11 course was with Dave Hanczyk at the time and all the other
12 operators that happened to be down there.

13 MR. CONTE: How about that corridor before you go
14 into the UPS? Was that lit?

15 MR. NICHOLS: The what?

16 MR. CONTE: The corridor before you go into the
17 UPS room.

18 MR. NICHOLS: Yes, that was lit. That was lit.

19 MR. CONTE: Any noticeable change in lighting,
20 emergency lighting on -- don't remember?

21 MR. NICHOLS: No, I don't recall that portion.

22 MR. CONTE: How was the lighting in the UPS room?

23 MR. NICHOLS: I think it was fully functional.

24 MR. CONTE: Okay. Anything else, Mike?

25 MR. JORDAN: No -- well, maybe I do have one.



1 You closed the G breaker, the maintenance breaker
2 on the G UPS?

3 MR. NICHOLS: Correct.

4 MR. JORDAN: And Dave closed the -- did Dave close
5 the breaker on the ones prior to that?

6 MR. NICHOLS: No. He didn't seem to have the
7 physical strength. He tried one and then everybody else
8 did the breakers for him.

9 MR. JORDAN: For him, okay, so it wasn't like
10 maybe there was some indication that the G breaker was more
11 difficult than any of the other ones?

12 MR. NICHOLS: No.

13 MR. JORDAN: He couldn't handle any of them
14 anyway?

15 MR. NICHOLS: No.

16 MR. JORDAN: He had the knowledge but not the
17 physical capability?

18 MR. NICHOLS: Correct.

19 MR. JORDAN: I think that's all I have.

20 MR. CONTE: That's all I have.

21 This interview is concluded.

22 [Whereupon, at 2:50 p.m., the taking of the
23 interview was concluded.]

24

25



REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceedings before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

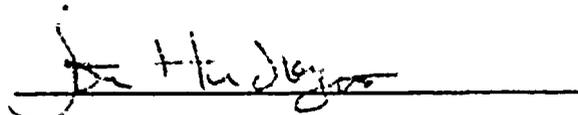
in the matter of:

NAME OF PROCEEDING: Int. of PHILLIP NICHOLS

DOCKET NUMBER:

PLACE OF PROCEEDING: Scriba, 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.



JON HUNDLEY
Official Reporter
Ann Riley & Associates, Ltd.



ORIGINAL

07-96A-91

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Agency: Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Incident Investigation Team

Title: Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Plant
Interview of: PHILLIP NICHOLS

Docket No.

LOCATION: Scriba, New York

DATE: Tuesday, August 20, 1991

PAGES: 1 - 23

ANN RILEY & ASSOCIATES, LTD.

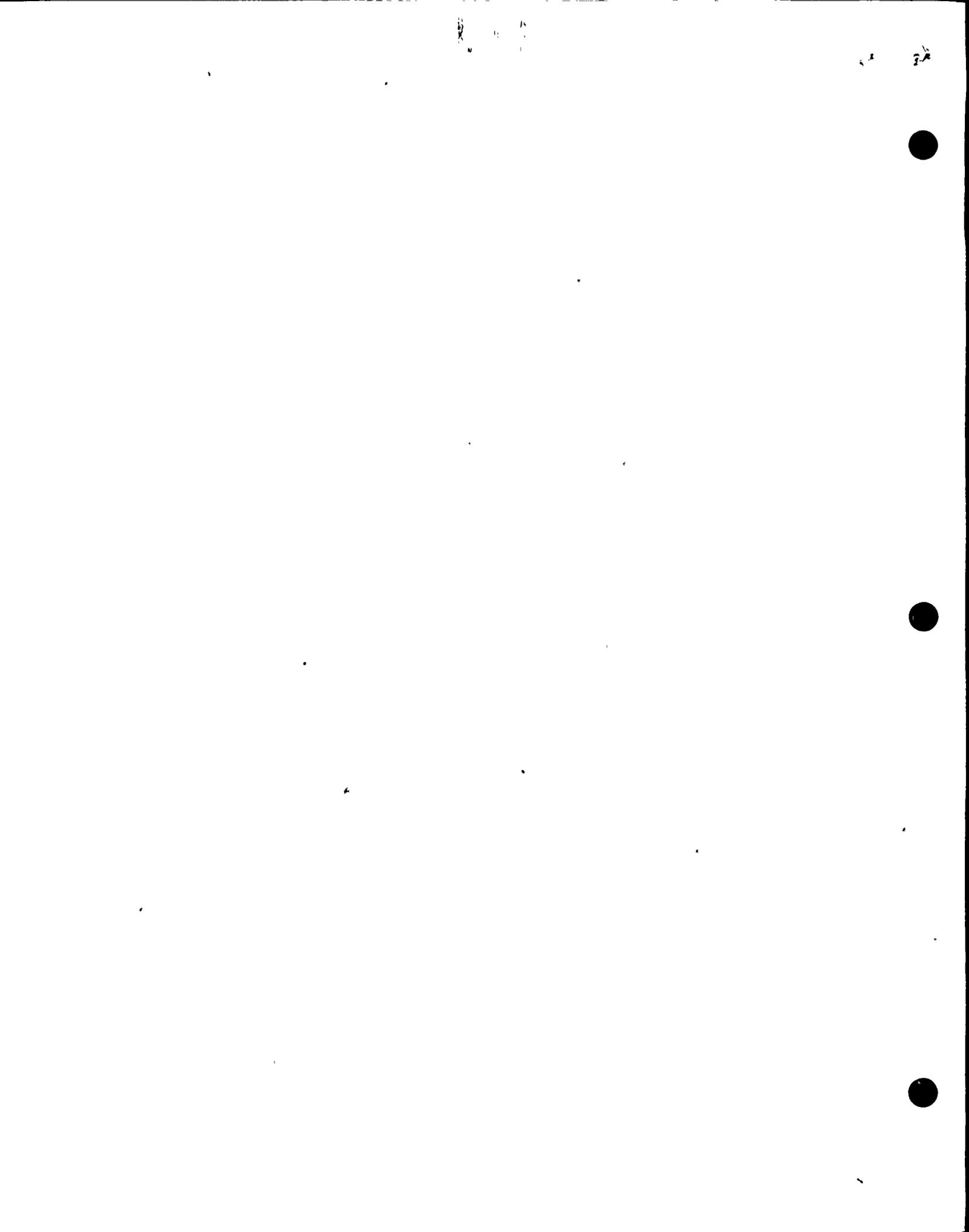
1612 K St. N.W., Suite 300

Washington, D.C. 20006

(202) 293-3950.

9305070218

9305070218 911031
PDR ADDCK 05000410
S PDR



18

27

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
INCIDENT INVESTIGATION TEAM

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Interview of :
PHILLIP NICHOLS :
(Closed) :

Conference Room B
Administration Building
Nine Mile Point Nuclear
Power Plant, Unit Two
Lake Road
Scriba, New York 13093
Tuesday, August 20, 1991

The interview commenced, pursuant to notice,
at 2:20 a.m.

PRESENT FOR THE IIT:
Michael Jordan, NRC
Rich Conte, INPO

11

11



P R O C E E D I N G S

[2:20 p.m.]

1
2
3 MR. JORDAN: Good afternoon. It's August the
4 20th, 1991 at 2:20 in the afternoon.

5 We are at the Nine Mile Point Unit Two P Building.

6 We are here to conduct an investigation into the
7 events of a transient that occurred on August 13th, 1991.

8 We are here to interview Phil Nichols.

9 My name is Michael Jordan. I am with the NRC out
10 of Region 3.

11 MR. CONTE: I am Rich Conte, Region 1.

12 MR. NICHOLS: My name is Phillip Nichols. I am an
13 aux operator, B.

14 MR. CONTE: Okay, Phil. Do you go by Phil or
15 Phillip?

16 MR. NICHOLS: Phil is just fine, thank you.

17 MR. JORDAN: Phil, why don't you give us a
18 background on what your experience is.

19 MR. NICHOLS: I was a naval nuclear machinist mate
20 for six years and then I started in the nuclear industry
21 down at Consolidated Edison in downstate New York. I worked
22 there as an auxiliary operator for four years and then last
23 year in '90 I came up here to Nine Mile Point Two, hired in
24 as auxiliary operator.

25 I have worked here for approximately one year.



1 MR. JORDAN: Okay. Were you licensed?

2 MR. NICHOLS: No. Non-licensed operator.

3 MR. JORDAN: Non-licensed operator at both
4 locations.

5 Okay, why don't you just in your own words give us
6 a rundown of what you saw, what you observed of the event or
7 transient?

8 MR. NICHOLS: Okay. At the time when it happened,
9 approximately time, it was approximately a quarter to six in
10 the morning, I was in the reactor building on 215 elevation
11 with Dave Hanczyk. We were hanging a markup on a part of
12 the RHS system. We were marking up a pressure indicator, I
13 believe, if it was at the time.

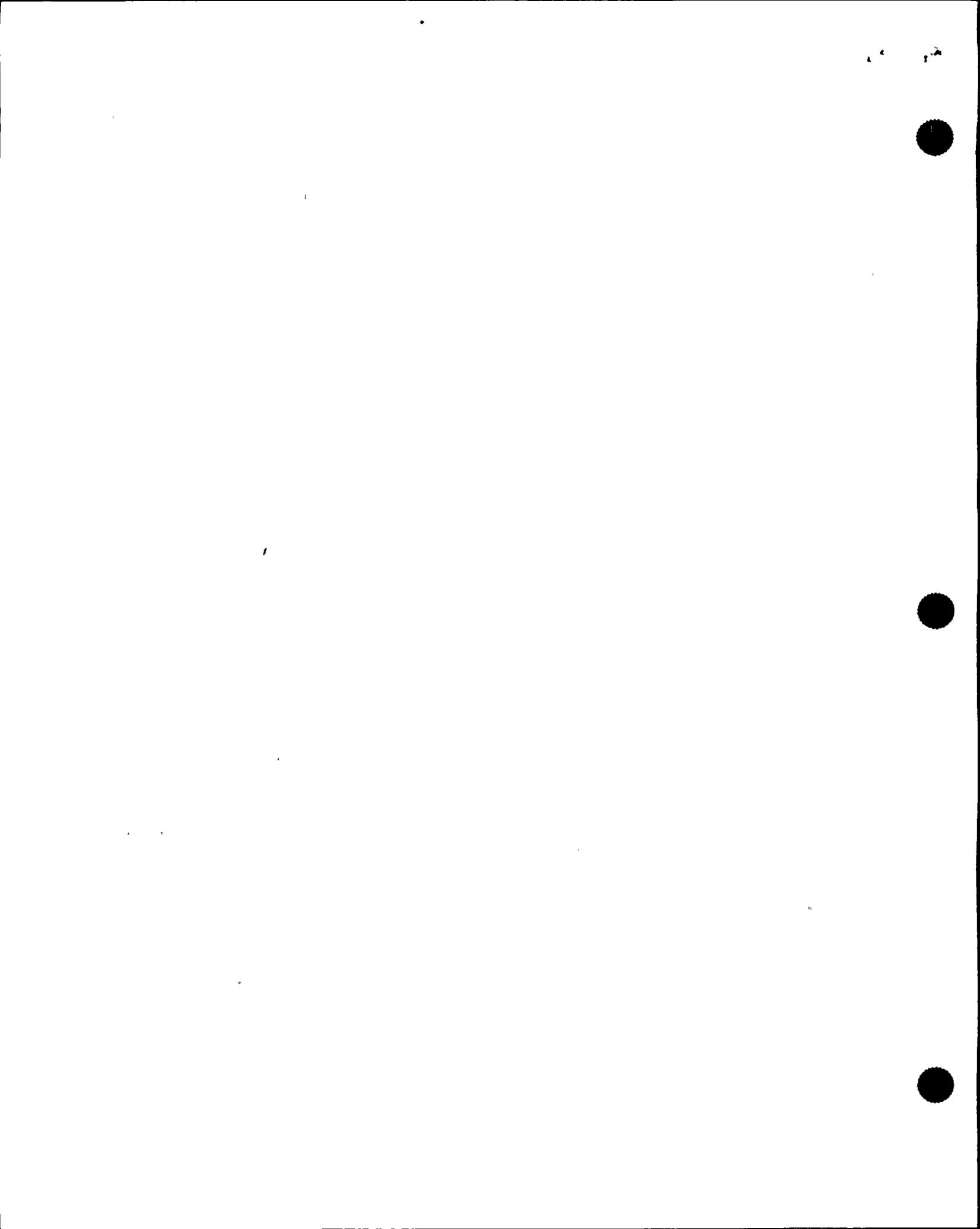
14 MR. JORDAN: RHS?

15 MR. NICHOLS: Yes. Residual heat removal system.

16 MR. JORDAN: Oh, okay.

17 MR. NICHOLS: Sorry -- and at the time when we
18 were at that portion of the markup of course the lights went
19 out and Dave Hanczyk was up on a platform -- you know,
20 second verifying the last part of a tag. Then he came down
21 and we then at that time exited the reactor building via the
22 south stairwell.

23 We originally thought to take the elevator but we
24 didn't want to chance it. We didn't know if the power would
25 be out for that also.



1 As soon as we got into the stairwell, you know, we
2 went up and then exited through the south exit way where the
3 frisk-alls are. You have become familiar with the Blue
4 Gooses and we took the few minutes to do that.

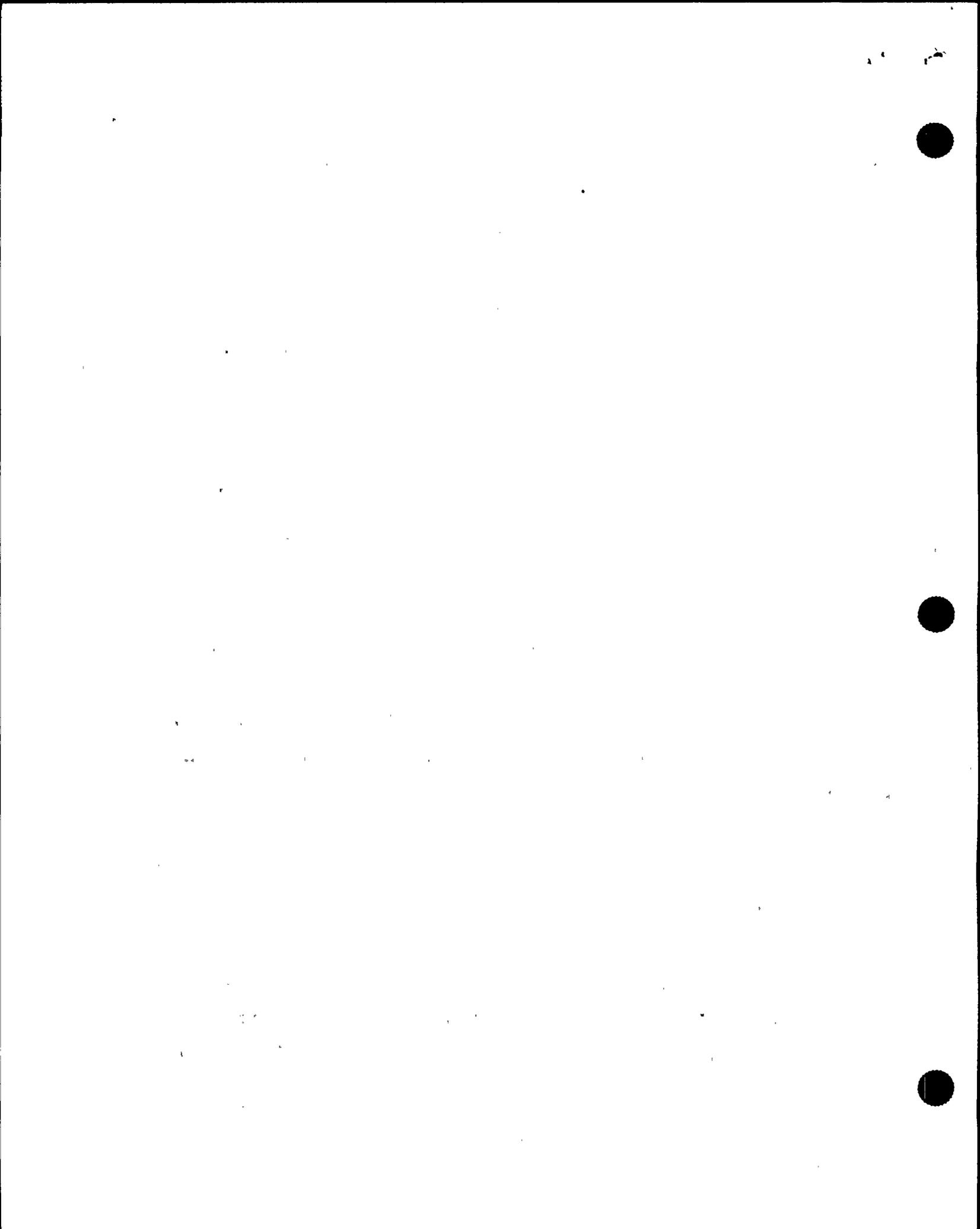
5 MR. JORDAN: They were operating?

6 MR. NICHOLS: Yes, they were operating. They did
7 have power. As soon as the lights went out they repowered
8 back up within a few seconds in the reactor building.
9 Stairwell lighting was out though. Didn't seem to have the
10 emergency power or anything come back on. It was dark, you
11 know. I had a flashlight of course, and that was good
12 enough to get us out.

13 From there we proceeded to go up to the control
14 room to find out, you know, the nature of the problem, to
15 see what we could do to assist.

16 After entering the control room Dave Hanczyk, I
17 split off from him. I didn't stay with him after that and I
18 stood there for a moment to get instructions from anyone at
19 the -- like the CSO or anything and they had their hands
20 full as far as that was concerned about what was going on in
21 the control room at the time.

22 I myself then, I'm not qualified very much because
23 I haven't been here that long, I just finished a six month
24 school, but there's a few things that the aux operators do,
25 like you know to go start the aux boiler and if the diesels



1 had started on such an emergency to go check the diesels to
2 make sure they were running properly and I was indicated as
3 somebody who already went to check the aux boilers. A part
4 of the system that goes along with it is the hot water
5 heating system and I went down to 261 to monitor that
6 because it's got nitrogen bottle -- it's got a nitrogen
7 charge on it that depletes very quickly when the system
8 trips off line and it starts to cool down and contract.

9 A guy was with me, a guy named Thomas Restuccio.
10 He's on shift. He's on the relief shift and he happened to
11 be on nights with us and he went with me and we were sort of
12 changing our nitrogen bottles as the system took in a lot of
13 nitrogen due to it cooling down.

14 I stayed there for I don't know, approximately 10
15 to 15 minutes, doing that, with him because we weren't --
16 there wasn't much else -- there was no instruction for us to
17 do much else. We couldn't communicate of course because
18 they found out that the Gaitronics and everything was non-
19 functional.

20 Then some people came down --

21 MR. CONTE: You said 261 elevation. What
22 building?

23 MR. NICHOLS: The aux service building. It's the
24 main pathway down to the cafeteria, maybe you are familiar
25 with it.



1 Then we -- some people came down the stairway into
2 that same passageway, Aaron Armstrong and Dave Hanczyk, and
3 they were on their way down to the UPS -- you know,
4 uninterruptable power supplies. They went down there so I
5 left Tom Restuccio with the nitrogen bottles because the
6 system had slowed down, eating up all the nitrogen
7 initially, and then I went with them to, you know, to assist
8 them any way I could.

9 When I went down there they were looking over the
10 UPS's and trying to use the procedures to bring them back on
11 line, and it just seemed to be that they couldn't get the
12 things to function no matter what they did.

13 You know, they were non-functional no matter what
14 part of the startup procedure or restoring that they used.
15 That is when they decided to just manually override the
16 maintenance power supply breaker. They pulled off the power-
17 operated cover that covers this breaker and they shut the
18 breakers on the four UPS's that were down there. That
19 restored power.

20 MR. JORDAN: Did you do it or did you observe --

21 MR. NICHOLS: I observed doing those UPS's when
22 they were down there because there was, jeez, there was half
23 a dozen guys there at least and then as soon as they
24 finished those I went down to 214 elevation with Dave
25 Hanczyk, followed him some of the way to UPS 1G -- that's



1 one of the last UPS's and then I -- we took the cover off
2 on that one and I shut that breaker because Dave Hanczyk
3 didn't seem to physically he couldn't do it and then from
4 there proceeded to go back to the control room.

5 At that time I wasn't aware of the time so I
6 couldn't tell you exactly how long it had been then, but I
7 went to the control room, spent maybe two or three minutes
8 there, and then left and went to the Beehive, you know, the
9 operators' staging room and waited for further instruction
10 there.

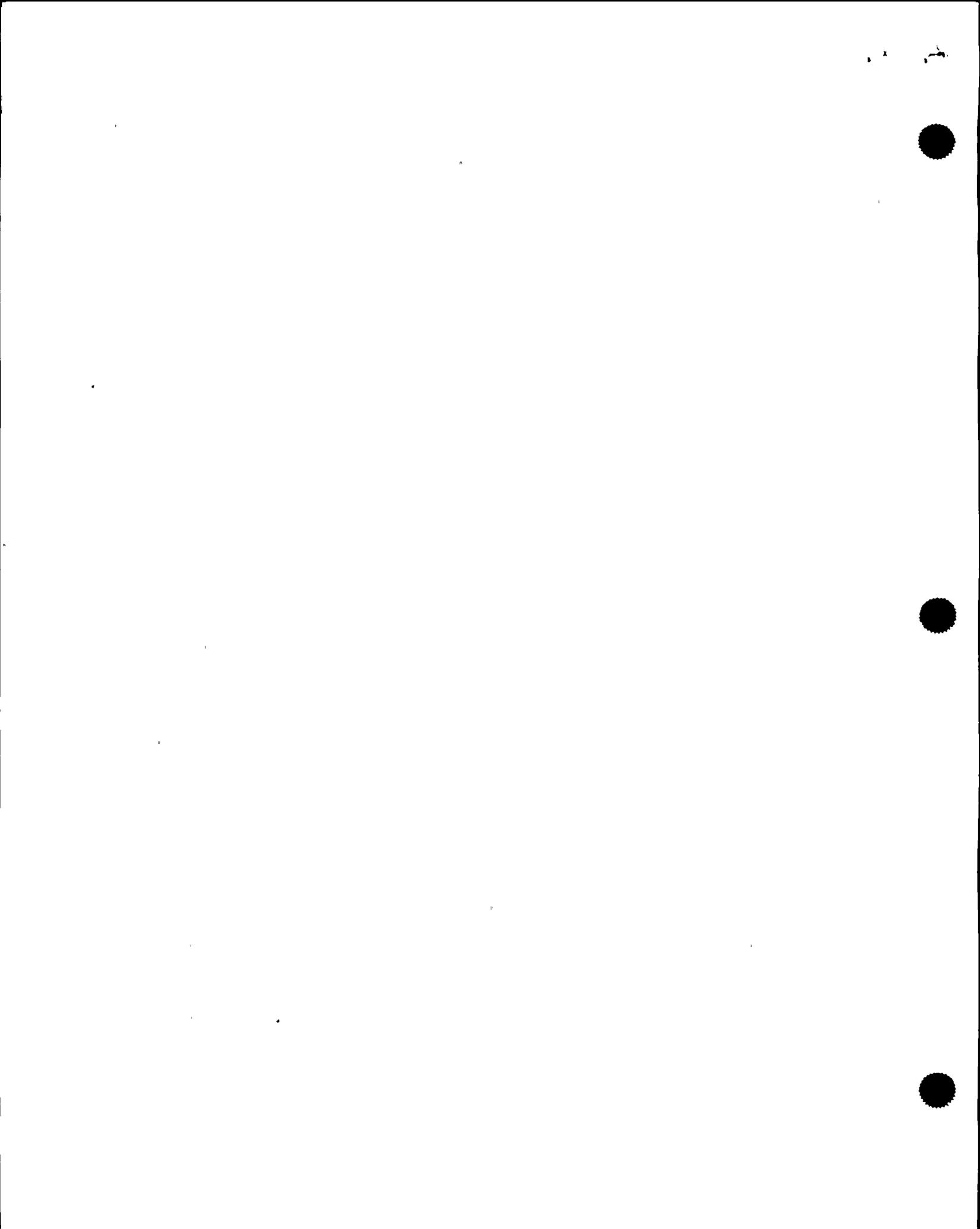
11 Told the CSO we were going to be there because he
12 seemed to have his hands pretty full still. Then afterwards
13 as far as I was concerned, they declared the site area
14 emergency and everything of course in between during that
15 time and we logged in and out of the control room of course
16 to be on our site recorders with the card readers.

17 I'm trying to think of the jobs I went out on.

18 MR. CONTE: Is the nature of the accountability
19 logging into the control room?

20 MR. NICHOLS: For the operators, for logging into
21 your areas that you are supposed to be in, and the operators
22 log into the control room to be on the computer as far as
23 accountability is concerned.

24 MR. CONTE: Is that going through the door or is
25 there a separate log-in?



1 MR. NICHOLS: No, going through the door was
2 considered to log in to the computer but -- I'm trying to
3 think.

4 One of the jobs I had to go on -- I only went on
5 like a couple more jobs. They pretty much didn't use me for
6 much. RCS-V145 was a valve I had to open. It's a sampling
7 isolation.

8 MR. CONTE: RCS?

9 MR. NICHOLS: V145.

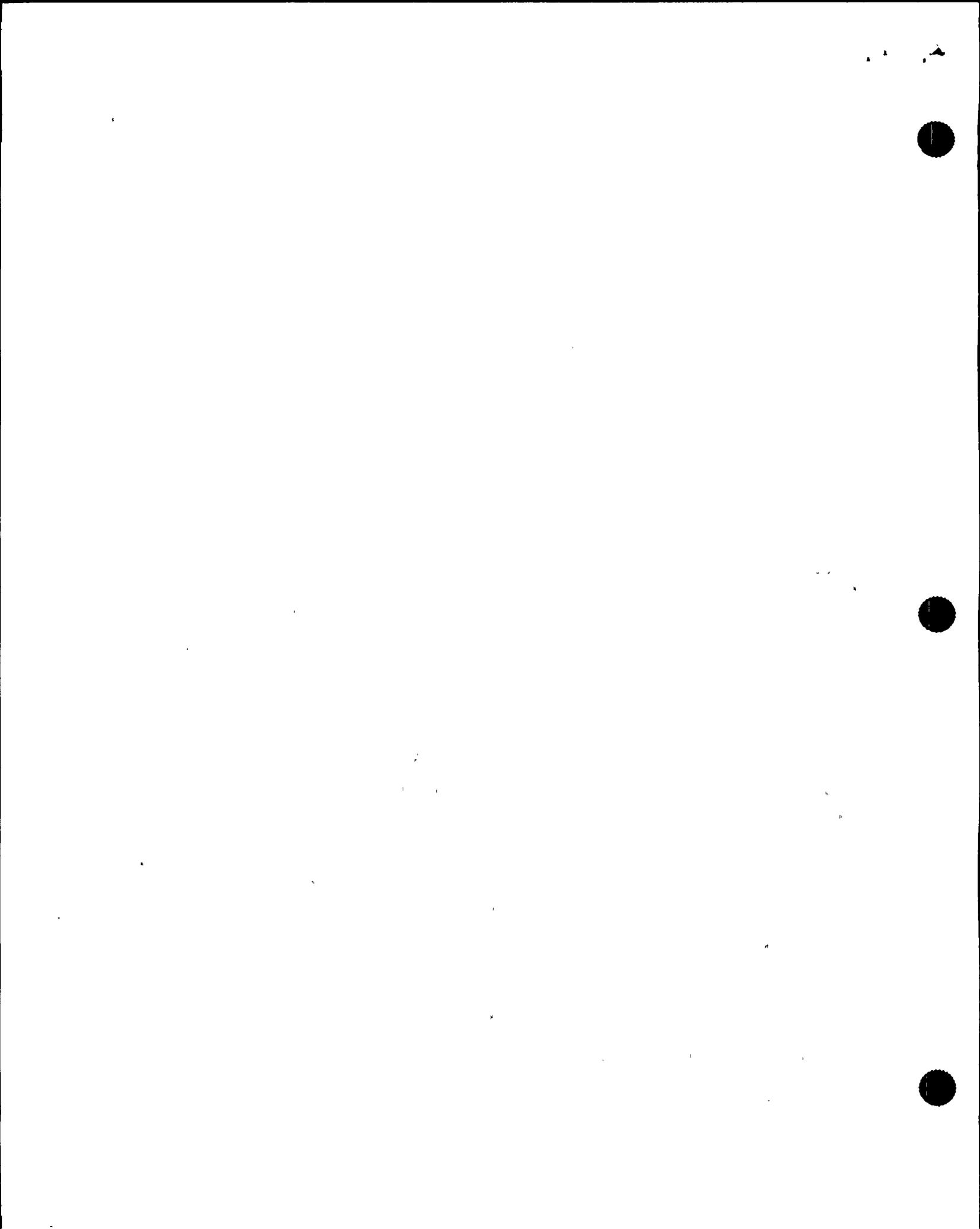
10 MR. CONTE: 145. Sample isolation?

11 MR. NICHOLS: Sample isolation in the reactor
12 building on 261 foot on the east side by the east -- they
13 come out the north HCU's but it's like northeast.

14 MR. CONTE: Northeast. At that time, 6:22, power
15 was restored. Did you notice anything unusual in the
16 lighting?

17 MR. NICHOLS: No. Not from being upstairs then.
18 Most of the lighting had restored itself, well, the floors
19 and lights of course and everything had come right back on
20 after the initial power loss but as far as emergency lights
21 was concerned, in isolated areas there wasn't much to notice
22 missing then because all the regular lights had come back
23 on.

24 MR. JORDAN: Was the opening of 145 -- the RCS
25 valve, was that okay? Did you do that?



1 MR. NICHOLS: Yes.

2 MR. JORDAN: Any problems noted?

3 MR. NICHOLS: No problems noted. Okay, now where
4 to?

5 MR. JORDAN: Was that open because, just as a
6 normal policy or procedure or was it the valve, motor
7 operated valve and you had to override the motor operation
8 on it?

9 MR. NICHOLS: No, it is a standard hand-operated
10 valve. It's a sampling isolation they have used recently.
11 As far as my lack of knowledge with the sampling system they
12 have been isolating recently within the last few months.
13 When they want chemistry samples they have someone go out
14 and open it and I can only assume they wanted it opened
15 immediately after this transient to find out of course if
16 there is any chemistry problems with the reactor vessel.

17 [Knocking at door, followed by short
18 interruption.]

19 MR. JORDAN: We went off the record because of an
20 interruption for requesting a coffee pot out of the office.

21 Okay, Phil. You were talking about the last
22 operation you did was the RCS VS145. You opened it, which
23 was a sample valve.

24 MR. NICHOLS: That's correct.

25 MR. JORDAN: What was the rest of the thing --



1 actions or that you did for the day?

2 MR. NICHOLS: After that there was -- that was
3 pretty much it.

4 I went back to the control room. After that --
5 well, I called the control room shortly thereafter to report
6 that operation and then I went back to the control room
7 after that and I declared some paperwork on the RHS markups
8 that we had hung.

9 During the course of the next hour they cleared
10 all those markups. I guess they wanted to restore the
11 system back to normal to make sure there was nothing that
12 may have caused any problems and then I had to sign off the
13 paperwork, the markup sheets, clearing those markups.

14 MR. JORDAN: You worked on clearing those markups?

15 MR. NICHOLS: Actually I had to sign the
16 paperwork, the original documents, to hang those markups
17 because you take working copies out in the field with you
18 and we got caught up in that and couldn't of course do that
19 at the time, and then to sign off so that the people who
20 removed all the markups could finish the paperwork, you
21 know, and have the restoration sheets and do it in proper
22 order, you know.

23 MR. JORDAN: You cleared the hanging of the
24 markups so they can clear -- they can de-hang them?

25 MR. NICHOLS: Correct. I know it's pretty unusual



1 when it goes like that, but that was pretty much it as far
2 as my involvement was concerned.

3 MR. CONTE: What did you do after you did the
4 paperwork on the markups? Were you allowed to go home?

5 MR. NICHOLS: Not at the time. I went back to the
6 Beehive, the staging area and then we waited till
7 approximately ten o'clock. At that time is when they
8 finally said that they really wouldn't need us anymore.

9 They still had the site area emergency on and then
10 we went -- on my shift all the auxiliary operators, we went
11 out to Security and tried to leave the site and they
12 wouldn't let us leave the site and we waited in the Security
13 for an hour until they got clearance through the control
14 room back through the EOF, you know, that were working the
15 operations. Then we finally left that day.

16 MR. JORDAN: What time was this?

17 MR. NICHOLS: That was approximately eleven
18 o'clock.

19 MR. CONTE: When you went into the UPS rooms, the
20 power supply room, you mentioned that you had just completed
21 training. Had you been all alone, would you have been able
22 to figure out how to get power downstream of those power
23 supplies using the override?

24 MR. NICHOLS: No.

25 MR. CONTE: Training didn't teach you anything



1 about how --

2 MR. NICHOLS: No, it didn't.

3 MR. CONTE: -- how to do that or that breaker?

4 MR. NICHOLS: No, we had been instructed on how
5 the power supply works and we had actually gone down from
6 training and looked at them about, you know, where certain
7 switches were, and we hadn't specifically gone through the
8 procedures on operating them, but the procedures are
9 relatively cookbook.

10 You know, there's some interpretation always for
11 everything, every procedure, to follow them, but as far as
12 pulling off that electro-operator that is on the cover of
13 the one, you know, the breaker, the two output breakers. I
14 don't think I would have guessed that, you know.

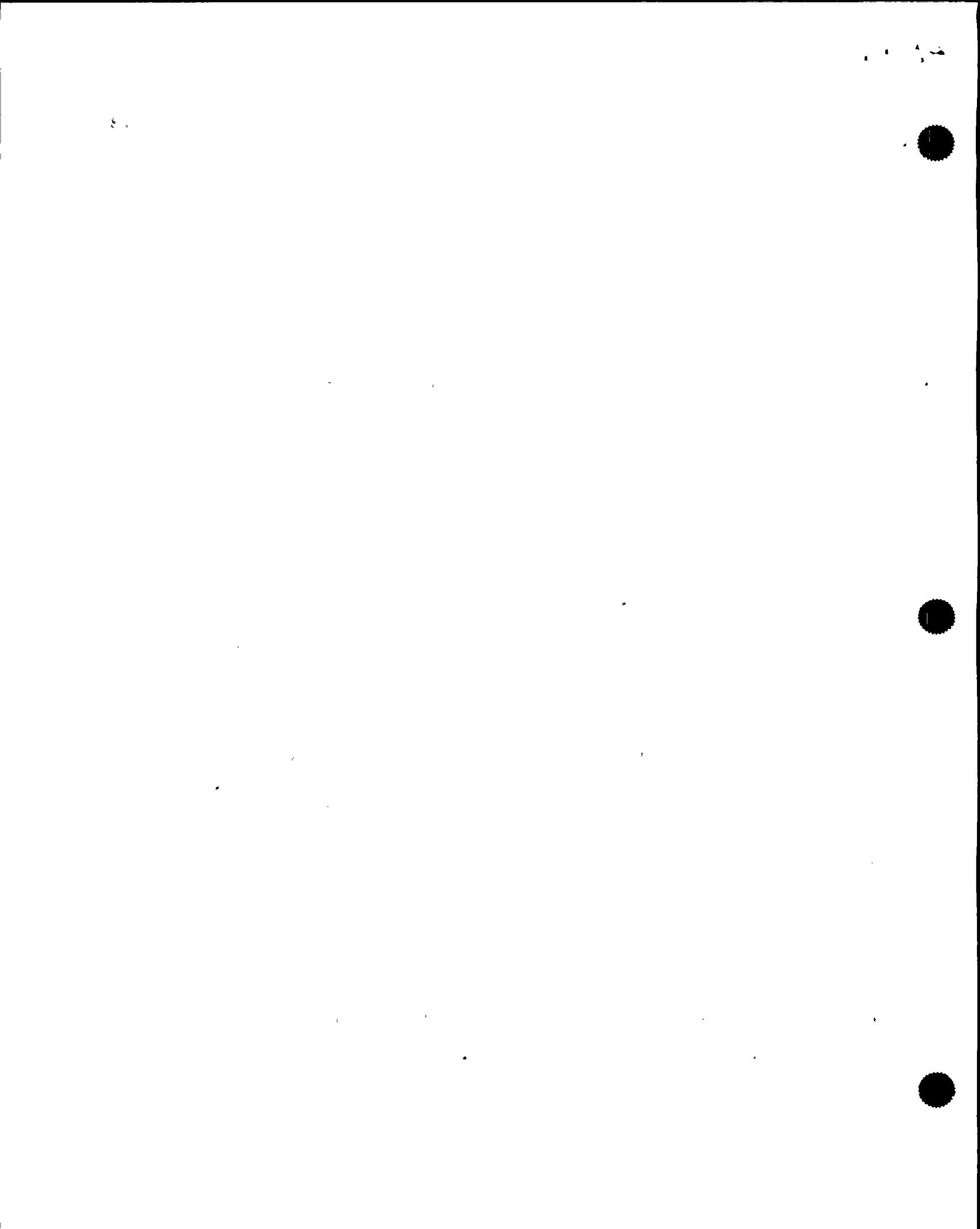
15 MR. CONTE: Okay, let me summarize what you said.
16 The extent of your training on the non-safety UPS supplies
17 was system training and classroom and perhaps go down to the
18 area and look at them, just for familiarization as to where
19 they were I guess.

20 MR. NICHOLS: Yes, that's it.

21 MR. CONTE: Is that correct?

22 MR. NICHOLS: That's correct.

23 MR. CONTE: If you were with Mr. Hanczyk when the
24 lights went out, it's extremely important that we get the
25 details of locations and levels. I am not sure we



1 established that real well with Dave so could you repeat
2 your path out of the reactor building and describing say the
3 elevations in buildings and what the conditions were in
4 terms of normal lighting, no emergency lighting, dark,
5 things like that?

6 Why don't you start -- in the reactor building you
7 said what elevation were you in in the reactor building?

8 MR. NICHOLS: We were on 215 foot elevation.

9 MR. CONTE: 215. Lights went out, is that
10 correct?

11 MR. NICHOLS: That's correct.

12 MR. CONTE: And then came back on?

13 MR. NICHOLS: Yes.

14 MR. CONTE: While you were walking out?

15 MR. NICHOLS: Yes, the sodium lamps started
16 restarting shortly right after, you know, the lights went
17 out. They of course a minute or two to get going.

18 We walked, looking at the reactor building, we
19 walked south to get to the elevator. We went to the
20 elevator first, and then we, you know, pushed the button and
21 waited for -- well, it couldn't have been 15 or 20 seconds.
22 It was on the second floor. The elevator was one floor
23 below us.

24 We waited for it to come up and it wasn't moving.
25 We assumed automatically that, you know, for whatever



1 electrically was wrong with the elevator, that it was stuck
2 on the second floor because usually it responds. It's going
3 to go one direction or the other.

4 I told Dave, I said I don't think it's going to be
5 worth waiting for. Then we walked back north to -- I know
6 this sounds like a little bit north to that south exit way,
7 the most south stairwell, and then we took that and went up
8 to 261 and it goes out that major, the frisk-out area, the
9 double trailers that are on the south side of the reactor
10 building.

11 We exited through there and then went straight
12 from there up to the control room.

13 MR. JORDAN: How was the lighting on the
14 stairwell?

15 MR. NICHOLS: It was totally black. I mean it
16 was--

17 MR. JORDAN: How about the lighting around where
18 the friskers were?

19 MR. NICHOLS: It was all light.

20 MR. JORDAN: All lit.

21 MR. NICHOLS: That was all energized.

22 MR. JORDAN: The stairwell?

23 MR. NICHOLS: The stairwell was totally black?

24 MR. JORDAN: And how about around the elevator?

25 MR. NICHOLS: Around the elevator was just the



1 regular lighting that was on and the sodium lamps coming
2 back on.

3 MR. JORDAN: So you got to the friskers. You
4 frisked out.

5 MR. NICHOLS: Yes.

6 MR. CONTE: I'm confused.

7 MR. JORDAN: Okay.

8 MR. CONTE: You were in the reactor building. You
9 went to the exit way. There was a stairwell at that exit
10 way to get up to 261 elevation?

11 MR. NICHOLS: Yes, yes.

12 MR. CONTE: That still was in the reactor
13 building?

14 MR. NICHOLS: Well, I suppose you could say as far
15 as the pressure boundary is concerned in the reactor
16 building --

17 MR. CONTE: Oh, I understand. You go through an
18 exit door and you are kind of in an annulus area.

19 MR. NICHOLS: Correct.

20 MR. CONTE: I understand that.

21 MR. NICHOLS: It actually sticks out from the
22 reactor building, if you are to look at that portion of the
23 building there, you know.

24 MR. CONTE: It's that green stack that kind of
25 goes up the side of the building?



1 MR. NICHOLS: Correct.

2 MR. CONTE: All right, and that was black?

3 MR. NICHOLS: Yes.

4 MR. CONTE: No emergency lights on in there?

5 MR. NICHOLS: No. I had my flashlight out and we
6 were watching the steps as we went up so we wouldn't kill
7 ourselves.

8 MR. CONTE: There was emergency lighting in that
9 stairway?

10 MR. NICHOLS: If I am not mistaken. I couldn't
11 say that for honest or sure. I can't guarantee that but I,
12 you know, believe there's emergency lights on almost every
13 square foot of this plant.

14 MR. CONTE: And then you came out at the 261.
15 Somehow you went out -- oh, you went up that stairway.

16 MR. NICHOLS: Went up the stairway.

17 MR. CONTE: And then you came out into where?

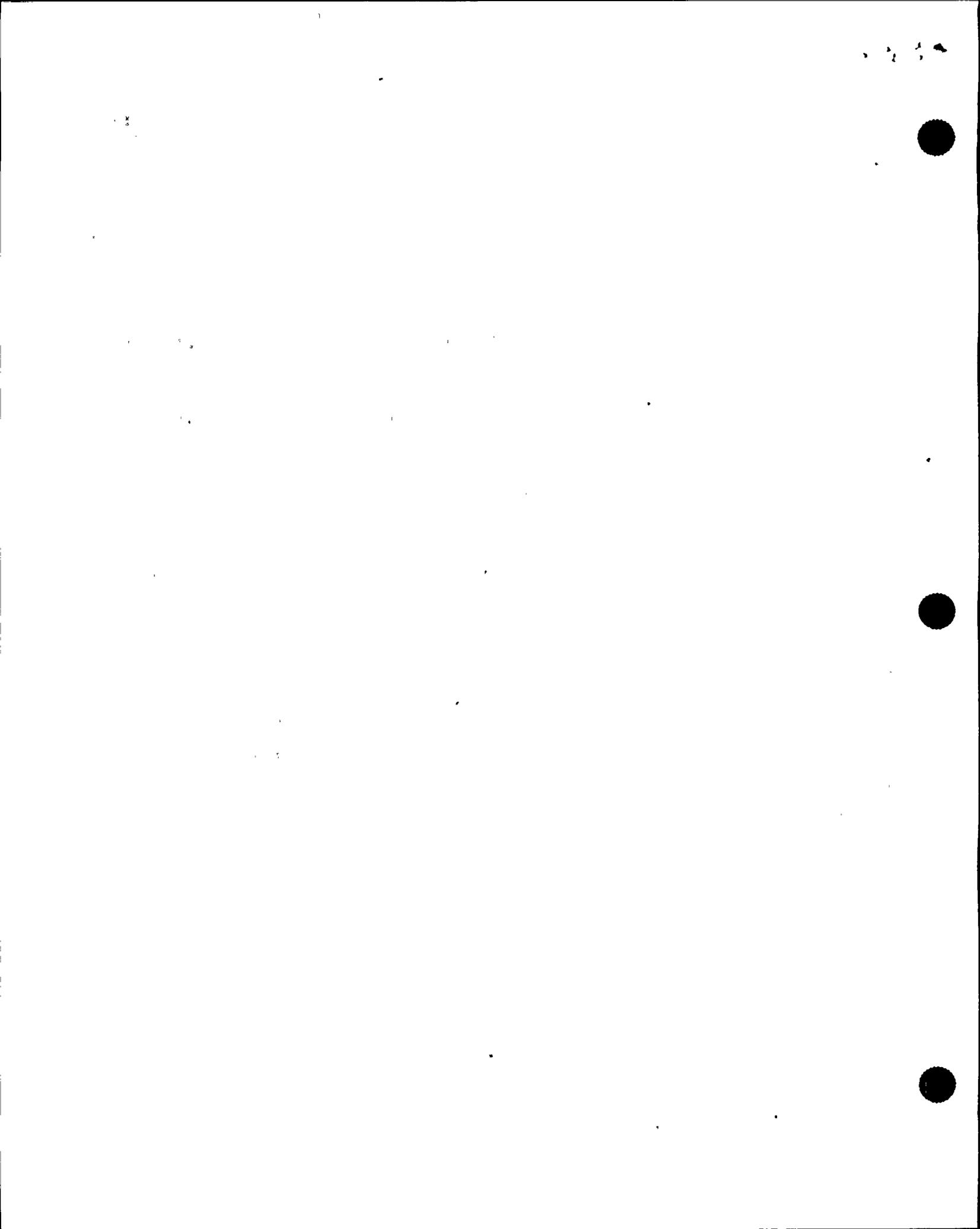
18 MR. NICHOLS: Into the south exit way, the
19 trailers. There is an exit that goes out there to that dual
20 set of trailers.

21 MR. CONTE: South exit. This is outside the
22 grounds then?

23 MR. NICHOLS: Outside the reactor building.

24 MR. CONTE: Outside the reactor --

25 MR. NICHOLS: Yes.



1 MR. CONTE: Okay. Then how did you go back into
2 the buildings?

3 MR. NICHOLS: We exited the trailers.

4 MR. CONTE: Okay.

5 MR. NICHOLS: And walked right back into the most
6 corner access way. It's like the aux service building right
7 there where you go right by the Cardox units.

8 MR. CONTE: What did you find in the aux service
9 building?

10 MR. NICHOLS: The lighting was on, if that is what
11 you mean.

12 MR. CONTE: Lighting was on?

13 MR. NICHOLS: Yes.

14 MR. CONTE: Then what?

15 MR. NICHOLS: We went to the elevator and used the
16 elevator. The elevator was on the ground floor and, you
17 know, happened to be. We pressed it and it opened up and it
18 took us up to the 306 elevation and then --

19 MR. CONTE: That's where the control room?

20 MR. NICHOLS: Correct. I went to the control
21 room.

22 MR. CONTE: Anything in that elevator? Was that
23 black? Just the elevator lights?

24 MR. NICHOLS: I can't remember if that was black
25 or not. I think it was black. I think the elevator lights



1 were out.

2 MR. CONTE: Mike? Can you think of anything?

3 MR. JORDAN: Yes. You mentioned you went with
4 Dave down to the UPS's and you tried to use procedure.

5 Did he have a procedure, did you have a procedure?

6 MR. NICHOLS: I was standing observing for the
7 most part with these other gentlemen I was with, Dave
8 Hanczyk had the procedure in hand and he was searching
9 through and found the portion for the restarts of the UPS's.
10 He actually went to a few different sets, parts of the
11 procedure, tried the restart and it didn't work.

12 MR. JORDAN: Do you have any idea what type of
13 things he did?

14 MR. NICHOLS: No. Just --

15 MR. JORDAN: What portions of the procedure he
16 did?

17 MR. NICHOLS: No. I wasn't like looking directly
18 over his shoulder watching what he was doing.

19 MR. JORDAN: Do you know if he documented in any
20 procedure the conditions of the UPS's before they operated
21 them?

22 MR. NICHOLS: I don't know.

23 MR. JORDAN: When you went to the G, just you and
24 he went to the G, right?

25 MR. NICHOLS: That's correct.



1 MR. JORDAN: Was there any documentation on that
2 observation before you operated the equipment to find out
3 the condition of the UPS before you operated it?

4 MR. NICHOLS: You mean as far as alarms are
5 concerned?

6 MR. JORDAN: Alarms or condition of breakers or
7 you know, which breakers were open, which breakers were
8 closed, which flags or whatever methods there are for
9 indicating?

10 MR. NICHOLS: All we did is, we didn't -- when we
11 went to UPS 1G we went to look at the alarms. The alarms
12 were I believe -- because when Dave Hanczyk looked at it
13 they were the same alarms that were on the other ones and I
14 can't specifically remember them myself. It was like the --
15 well, to name them I would be incorrect.

16 MR. JORDAN: Okay.

17 MR. NICHOLS: There was only a couple of alarms
18 that were on then, and then we went right to, of course, the
19 maintenance power supply and energized it.

20 MR. JORDAN: But it's more of an observation than
21 observation and documentation?

22 MR. NICHOLS: Correct.

23 MR. JORDAN: Okay. Well, the obvious thing is
24 going to be is try to lead us through the lighting then that
25 you left from the control room down to the UPS's. Can you



1 give us an idea of where you were, elevation, what buildings
2 you go through, stairwells, hallways and lighting and non-
3 lighting to the best of your knowledge?

4 MR. NICHOLS: Okay. To get down to the UPS's, 237
5 foot is the elevation. To get down to that from the --

6 MR. CONTE: Start from the control room.

7 MR. NICHOLS: Oh, from the control room? I'd come
8 back to the control room.

9 Okay, we -- oh, I was in the hallway actually,
10 down in 261. That's where I picked him up from so --

11 MR. CONTE: So 261 of the aux service building.

12 MR. NICHOLS: Of the aux service building.

13 MR. CONTE: You picked up Hanczyk.

14 MR. NICHOLS: We entered the --

15 MR. CONTE: That was black?

16 MR. NICHOLS: Actually it was lit in there.

17 MR. CONTE: It was?

18 MR. NICHOLS: Yes, in the aux service building.

19 MR. JORDAN: Is that lit by lights or lit because
20 of outside light?

21 MR. NICHOLS: Lit by regular lights.

22 MR. JORDAN: Lit by the regular lights.

23 MR. NICHOLS: And we went into the switch gear
24 building, the most -- say there's two portions of the switch
25 gear building, the most east portion of the switch gear



1 building, and --

2 MR. CONTE: I'm sorry, hold up. I'm a little
3 confused. We ended up with you came out of the elevator in
4 the aux service building at the 306 elevation in the control
5 room, towards the control room.

6 There is a discrepancy. Which elevation did you
7 run into Hanczyk? 261 or 306?

8 MR. NICHOLS: 261.

9 MR. CONTE: Why?

10 MR. NICHOLS: When I went up to the control room--

11 MR. CONTE: Oh, you both went up the elevator to
12 306.

13 MR. NICHOLS: To 306. We both went up the
14 elevator to 306. I split with him at the control room. We
15 went into the control room and then he went on his way about
16 doing his RO duties. I waited there for a moment and then I
17 went down with Tom Restuccio, down to 261, myself to work on
18 that portion of the hot water heating system, the nitrogen
19 portion.

20 MR. CONTE: Take us to the UPS then, how you ran
21 into Hanczyk?

22 MR. NICHOLS: From the nitrogen portion of the UPS
23 system, which is in the aux service building in the hallway,
24 we -- you have to go on the north -- I mean, excuse me, the
25 east building of the switchgear building, the east part, and



1 between the two buildings, between the two portions of the
2 switch gear building, there is a stairway that goes down to
3 237 foot elevation.

4 We took the stairway down. That stairway was
5 totally black. There was no lighting in the stairway. There
6 was full lighting in the switch gear building. We went down
7 to 237 foot and exited there and that goes to the west
8 portion of the switch gear building on 237. That is where
9 the UPS systems are.

10 Then when we went into that portion then I of
11 course was with Dave Hanczyk at the time and all the other
12 operators that happened to be down there.

13 MR. CONTE: How about that corridor before you go
14 into the UPS? Was that lit?

15 MR. NICHOLS: The what?

16 MR. CONTE: The corridor before you go into the
17 UPS room.

18 MR. NICHOLS: Yes, that was lit. That was lit.

19 MR. CONTE: Any noticeable change in lighting,
20 emergency lighting on -- don't remember?

21 MR. NICHOLS: No, I don't recall that portion.

22 MR. CONTE: How was the lighting in the UPS room?

23 MR. NICHOLS: I think it was fully functional.

24 MR. CONTE: Okay. Anything else, Mike?

25 MR. JORDAN: No -- well, maybe I do have one.



1 You closed the G breaker, the maintenance breaker
2 on the G UPS?

3 MR. NICHOLS: Correct.

4 MR. JORDAN: And Dave closed the -- did Dave close
5 the breaker on the ones prior to that?

6 MR. NICHOLS: No. He didn't seem to have the
7 physical strength. He tried one and then everybody else
8 did the breakers for him.

9 MR. JORDAN: For him, okay, so it wasn't like
10 maybe there was some indication that the G breaker was more
11 difficult than any of the other ones?

12 MR. NICHOLS: No.

13 MR. JORDAN: He couldn't handle any of them
14 anyway?

15 MR. NICHOLS: No.

16 MR. JORDAN: He had the knowledge but not the
17 physical capability?

18 MR. NICHOLS: Correct.

19 MR. JORDAN: I think that's all I have.

20 MR. CONTE: That's all I have.

21 This interview is concluded.

22 [Whereupon, at 2:50 p.m., the taking of the
23 interview was concluded.]

24

25



REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceedings before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

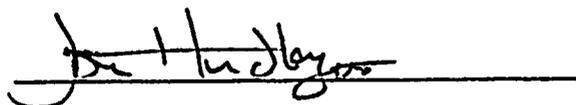
in the matter of:

NAME OF PROCEEDING: Int. of PHILLIP NICHOLS

DOCKET NUMBER:

PLACE OF PROCEEDING: Scriba, 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.



JON HUNDLEY
Official Reporter
Ann Riley & Associates, Ltd.

