

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

1 In the Matter of:
2 IE TMI INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW
3 of
4 George H. Smith
5 Chief, FF&MS Branch
6
7
8

9 Trailer #203
10 NRC Investigation Site
11 TMI Nuclear Power Plant
12 Middletown, Pennsylvania

13 May 17, 1979
14 (Date of Interview)

15 July 9, 1979
16 (Date Transcript Typed)

17 208
18 (Tape Number(s))
19
20

21 NRC PERSONNEL:
22 Al Gibson
23 William H. Foster
24
25

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1 FOSTER: The following interview is being conducted of Mr. George H.
2 Smith. Mr. Smith is Chief, Fuel Facility and Material Safety Branch,
3 Region I. Okay, the present time is 12:45 a.m. Today's date is May 17,
4 1979. The place of the interview is Trailer #203 located immediately
5 outside the South Gate to the TMI site. Individuals present for the
6 interview are: Mr. Al Gibson, Chief, Radiation Support Branch, Region II.
7 My name is William H. Foster. I'm a Senior Inspector Auditor with the
8 Office of Inspector and Auditor, NRC and I'll be monitoring the interview.
9 Prior to the interview being recorded, Mr. Smith was provided a document
10 explaining his rights concerning the information to be obtained regarding
11 the incident at Three Mile Island. In addition, Mr. Smith is apprised
12 of the purpose of the investigation, the scope and the authority by
13 which the Congress authorizes the NRC to conduct the investigation. On
14 the second of page of the advisement document, Mr. Smith has answered
15 three questions. The questions and Mr. Smith's answers will now be
16 recorded as part of the interview.

17
18 FOSTER: Mr. Smith, do you understand the document?
19

20 SMITH: Yes.
21

22 FOSTER: Do we have your permission to tape the interview?
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1 SMITH: Yes.

2
3 FOSTER: Do you want a copy of the tape or transcript?

4
5 SMITH: Yes.

6
7 FOSTER: OK. Mr. Smith at this time will you please provide a brief
8 summary of your academic background, including a history as they relate
9 to the nuclear field.

10
11 SMITH: I have a degree in graduate work in mathematics from the Uni-
12 versity of Montana. I started in the nuclear industry in 1958 at the
13 National Reactor Testing Station, Idaho Falls, Idaho, where I was
14 employed by Phillips Petroleum Company, as a health physics trainee. I
15 joined the staff of what is today the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
16 At that time it was the Atomic Energy Commission in May of 1960. I
17 have since been with this organization for nineteen years serving first
18 in the Idaho Compliance Division, later in Region IV, when it was
19 formed in Denver, Colorado. In 1973, I was transferred to the Head-
20 quarters Staff in Bethesda, Maryland, where principally I worked with
21 the Deputy Director for Field Operations as a Regional Coordinator and
22 handled health physics problems till last year of which I formed the
23
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1 Performance Appraisal Branch and at the time of leaving Headquarters
2 was Chief of that Branch. I have been in Region I since October 1,
3 1978.
4

5 FOSTER: Thank you, Mr. Smith. I'd like to correct the beginning of
6 this interview the time at the start of the interview is 12:45 p.m. not
7 a.m., and at this point I'll turn the interview over to Mr. Gibson.
8

9 GIBSON: Thank you, Mr. Foster. Mr. Smith, to aid the transcription of
10 this tape in the written form we would appreciate it if each statement
11 that you make you proceed by giving your name in order to clarify who
12 is making the statement for the girls transcribing. Also, for the
13 record I would like to clarify that my title is Chief, Radiation Support
14 Section, instead of Branch, in Region II, Atlanta.
15

16 SMITH: OK. I make a clarification, this is Smith, also in there I
17 guess I should say I'm a Board Certified Health Physicist.
18

19 GIBSON: Thank you, George. Today I would like for you to briefly, in
20 chronological order, explain what your actions were from the time you
21 were initially notified of the event that occurred at Three Mile Island
22 on March 28 until midnight on March 30 at which time the period of our
23 investigation is over?
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1 SMITH: I arrived at the Region I office at approximately 7:45 a.m. on
2 March 28; entered my office at which time Eldon Brunner, who is the
3 Chief of the Reactor Operations Branch came into my office and said
4 that Three Mile Island had been attempting to contact us and we should
5 call them back. At that time, we called Three Mile Island, opened the
6 line to, I believe, the Unit 2 control room, in my office; received the
7 initial report of what was transpiring; maintained the open line;
8 immediately contacted our supervision; informed them of what was trans-
9 piring; and recommended activation as a Region I emergency control
10 center.

11
12 GIBSON: Mr. Smith, do you recall the time that you returned the call
13 to Three Mile Island?

14
15 SMITH: I was looking at the notes yesterday in my office in Bethesda
16 and unfortunately it was not marked, but it was approximately 7:50.

17
18 GIBSON: As I understand it from your account you and Mr. Eldon Brunner
19 were the first members of the Region I technical staff to be informed
20 of the event.

21
22 SMITH: That is correct. Well I'm not sure if the duty officer had
23 received a call and said, informed them that we would call back.
24
25

1 GIBSON: Proceed.

2
3 SMITH: After receiving the call, we established the emergency control
4 center. We immediately dispatched a team to Three Mile Island consisting
5 of two health physicists, with the senior health physicist in charge,
6 Mr. Neely; and the other health physicist was the assigned health
7 physicist to the site, Mr. Plumlee; and an investigator with health
8 physics background, Dr. Chick Gallina; and an operations person, I
9 can't recall if it was Haverkamp or the tall, slender fellow that's
10 assigned to the site. I can't recall who it was. We then started
11 receiving information over the open, line from the site as to what was
12 happening; what the offsite radiation levels were; what they were
13 doing. We also, as I recall, dispatched a second team to the site. I
14 believe that these were principally investigators. I could be mistaken
15 on that. Through the day, well at approximately 10:00 o'clock, we
16 started receiving information from those people at the site. I can
17 recall that Don Neely was on the open line from the Unit 2 control
18 room. We also opened a line to Unit 1 control room and Dr. Gallina was
19 on the line there. This as I said was about 10 a.m. that we started
20 getting information. We, well go back, we have to go back to about
21 8:00 o'clock again. The Region I mobile van was at Millstone. We
22 contacted the individual in charge, Phil Stohr who is the Environmental
23 and Emergency Planning Section Chief; instructed him to leave Millstone
24 with the van and proceed to Three Mile Island. We instructed them to
25

1 stop at the Region I office as they went by and pick up supplies and
2 instructions. It is my recollection that they arrived at Region I
3 about 5:30 that evening and were onsite and operational here at Three
4 Mile Island at 9:00 o'clock that evening. This is all the 28th. We
5 continued to receive and assess information as it came in from the
6 site. I can't recall if I went home that night or not. I recall then
7 the next day we continued to receive information; additional people had
8 been dispatched; four people came in this was on Thursday, two from
9 Region II, two of them were health physicists, Zabadowski and Collins,
10 and two health physicists from Region III, Fisher and well Essig was
11 the fourth. Tom Essig is not a health physicist, he's an environmental
12 specialist. Generally, there are no milestones that I can think of on
13 the 29th. On the 30th well, oh yes, there were some milestones. One
14 of the things I recall on the 29th most vividly was the controversy
15 that arose over dumping water, and the fact that Headquarters ordered
16 that they stop dumping water, and the fact that the licensee couldn't
17 stop dumping water because it was overflowing into the drains and then
18 into the river. On the 30th, I recall the fact that through the early
19 morning hours of the 30th, the licensee was burping. They were having
20 pressure buildup in one of their gas tanks and this was being burped
21 about. I recalled that we asked for details on this and it was reported
22 to us that these discharges were lasting for approximately 15 seconds,
23 15 to 30 seconds and the exact length of time that the discharges had
24 taken place were calculated. I can remember, I can recall no readings
25

1 in excess of 70 mR per hour. I know we had people. I can recall
2 instructing Mr. Plumlee to go out around the fence and down especially
3 to the north gate. We were especially concerned about the north gate.
4 That's where the highest readings were occurring. I can recall no
5 readings being reported to us at these offsite locations greater than
6 70 mR per hour.

7
8 GIBSON: Mr. Smith, for the record, you mentioned burping. Will you
9 explain what you mean by that term?

10
11 SMITH: The pressure would build up in the system; a relief valve would
12 lift; and gas would be released to a point that the relief valve would
13 reseal itself.

14
15 GIBSON: Do you recall this occurring several times on the 30th?

16
17 SMITH: Yes, I don't have the notes here but I have notes where it
18 occurred as I recall now over 30 second intervals each burp and I
19 believe that it occurred for a total of 12 minutes, or was it 6 minutes?
20 12 times for a total of 6 minutes during the early morning hours of the
21 30th, yes.

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23 GIBSON: Do you recall if these releases were anticipated by licensee?
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SMITH: As I understand it, they, the licensee was able to predict when one of these releases would take place during the latter releases whether the initial releases were predicted or not I don't know.

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GIBSON: Were these releases from the waste gas decay tanks or from the make-up tank in Unit 2?

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SMITH: To the best of my recollection from the make-up tank.

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GIBSON: You mentioned 70 mR per hour as being the highest reading you recall. Was this an offsite reading? Do you recall where the reading was made?

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SMITH: As best I recall the 70 mR per hour was at the north gate.

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GIBSON: Was this a measurement made by the NRC or the licensee?

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SMITH: As I recall, it was made by Mr. Plumlee of the NRC.

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GIBSON: You mentioned earlier, that on the 29th, Headquarters ordered that they stop dumping water, but they could not. Could you explain that more specifically to include what water you were speaking of and who in Headquarters placed the order, and to whom the order was given?

1 SMITH: The water that being dumped was being dumped out of the industrial
2 waste storage tanks, and what was happening the sumps in the turbine
3 building were full. The water was overflowing under the turbine building
4 floor, out the door, and flowing into the storm drains and into the
5 river. Therefore, in order to release the water under controlled
6 conditions, and we had had many questions from the licensee about what
7 the MPC for noble gases and water were before they started these releases,
8 anyway, in order for this water not to be released in an uncontrolled
9 manner, they were making controlled releases from the industrial waste
10 storage tank system. Who made the or issued the order from Headquarters,
11 the order as given was "The I&T orders Three Mile Island to stop dumping
12 liquid." To the best of my recollection, those are the exact words
13 that came over the open line which was between the Unit 2 control room,
14 Region I and the IRC, the Incident Response Center in Bethesda.

15
16 GIBSON: This was a verbal order?

17
18 SMITH: This was a verbal order, yes? Smith.

19
20 GIBSON: Then am I correct in my understanding that the order was from
21 I&E Headquarters, directly to the site or to Region I where it was
22 transferred to the site?
23
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1 SMITH: It was from I&T which is not necessarily I&E Headquarters. The
2 I&T or the Incident Management Team is comprised of heads of all of the
3 NRC offices, and the person delivering the order was an I&E person.
4 However, as I say I&T is all of the office heads, plus Mr. Gossick.
5

6 GIBSON: What is the name of the person delivering the order?
7

8 SMITH: I believe that it was Morris Howard.
9

10 GIBSON: Do you know who received the order in the control room?
11

12 SMITH: I do not. I do know that they discontinued dumping water.
13

14 GIBSON: You mentioned earlier that Headquarters ordered that they
15 stop, but they were not able to stop because of the sump was overflowing
16 I believe?
17

18 SMTIH: That is correct. However, they discontinued the controlled
19 dumping of water, but there was no way they could stop the uncontrolled
20 dumping of water.
21

22 GIBSON: So the effect of the order was that the release continued but
23 in an uncontrolled manner?
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1 SMITH: In my opinion that is correct, and I so informed Headquarters.
2

3 GIBSON: Mr. Smith, would you continue, as I recall you were discussing
4 burping of make-up tanks on the 30th Friday?
5

6 SMITH: These periodic releases continued and the licensee as we discussed
7 was able to predict a release. At approximately 9:00 or 9:30, I received
8 calls from both Dr. Gallina and Mr. Stohr who were onsite. I particularly
9 recall both calls. Mr. Stohr was extremely concerned because he had a
10 Congressman standing along side of him and the Congressman wanted to
11 know about the evacuation that had been ordered by NRC. I assured
12 Mr. Stohr that there had been no such evacuation ordered. I then
13 received, Mr. Gallina came in on the open line from Unit 1 and stated
14 that things were, he was a bit distraught, things were a little ugly in
15 the control room because of the order by NRC to evacuate. I was at-
16 tempting to assure him that NRC has not issued any such order when I
17 heard in the background behind me the radio stating that Governor Thornburg
18 at the advice of the NRC, had ordered evacuation of, as I recall, a ten
19 mile area. We attempted to find out what prompted this evacuation. We
20 had no information which would, well upon which I would have ordered
21 such an evacuation. I still don't quite know what prompted the order.
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GIBSON: Mr. Smith, I am particularly interested in any activities by NRC people onsite during the period of March 28 through the 30th that affected licensee activities or performance. In that regard, could you describe the assigned functions and responsibilities of the people under your direction offsite during this period of time, and any effect that you believe they may have had on licensee activities?

SMITH: During the first, let's say two days, of the incident (that's the 28th, 29th and the early part of the 30th) the people under my direction fell into two general groups. One group was the onsite health physicists who were observing what was happening; who were collecting or taking readings at various places in the immediate plant environs, around the plant; and who were rendering such assistance as was requested. However, their basic job was one of observing and reporting. The other group, distinct group that would be there, would be the mobile laboratory. They were here and performing the function of a laboratory and I have been informed that during the first forty-eight hours, they were the only functional analytical facilities at the site.

GIBSON: Do you know if during the first three days, which would be the, during the period the 28 through the 30th, if results of measurements made by the NRC environmental staff were provided to the licensee?

1 SMITH: I am sure that the results of all analytical measurements that
2 were made in the van were provided to the licensee. Basically, we were
3 analyzing his samples. As far as our instrument readings and that that
4 were being made by people such as Mr. Plumlee, I do not know if he
5 provided these results as he made them to the licensee. I do know that
6 my attitude would be and I'm sure his would be but I'm guessing, that
7 if they wanted them they were certainly available to them. After, well
8 when you speak though of the 28th through the 30th at about 4:00 p.m.
9 on the 30th, our mode of operation changed at the site.

10
11 GIBSON: Could you describe more specifically how this mode changed?
12

13 SMITH: Basically at about noon on the 30th we were informed, by we,
14 Region I was informed that health physicists from both Regions II and
15 III (approximately ten from each Region) were being flown into the
16 Three Mile Island area. The apparent, what was the apparent order of
17 the evacuation, the situation here had changed dramatically or appeared
18 to have changed dramatically. We therefore, we, Boyce Grier, the
19 Director of Region I, and myself flew to Three Mile Island in a helicopter.
20 At the same time a number of several members of my staff drove to Three
21 Mile Island and we set up a working health physics organization at
22 Three Mile Island.
23
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1 FOSTER: We are now going to take a short break and change the tape,
2 the time is 1:16 p.m.
3

4 FOSTER: We are now going to continue with the interview of Mr. Smith.
5 The time is 1:21 p.m.
6

7 GIBSON: To summarize, Mr. Smith, you explained that NRC people were,
8 NRC people from the Office of Inspection and Enforcement who were
9 onsite up to approximately 4:00 p.m., on the 30th of March, were primarily
10 involved in gathering information and providing this information back
11 to the Region I office.
12

13 SMITH: That is correct, and also taking readings as requested. I
14 would say, best define that as the classical NRC position in an emergency.
15 It is the one which has always been described as the manner in which we
16 will operate during an emergency.
17

18 GIBSON: Again I am especially interested in any activity that might
19 have affected licensee performance or activities. So even though this
20 was their primary assigned role, can you recall any specific examples
21 where people from the Office of Inspection and Enforcement, up to 4:00
22 p.m. on the 30th, took some action which may have affected the licensee
23 performance?
24
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1 SMITH: Mr. Gibson, I can't.

2
3 GIBSON: Would you describe specifically the change in your mode that
4 occurred on or about 4:00 p.m. on the 30th?
5

6 Well, at approximately 4:00 p.m., Mr. Grier and myself arrived by
7 helicopter from Region I. We had been preceded by, as I previously
8 noted, health physicists from other Regions. At the time after arrival,
9 I can recall one of the first things that happened it that we were all
10 given a briefing by Harold Denton, but we then set up, and I had been
11 drawing up on the way down, an organization chart. We set up a health
12 physics organization, consisting of two parts, an environmental analysis
13 group and an in-plant group. My specific instructions to all of the
14 health physicists assembled was that we were not in the compliance
15 mode. We were there for one reason, and one reason only. That was to
16 protect the health and safety of the public and the health and safety
17 of the workers and that we were to work in that mode until directed
18 otherwise. We then set up in-plant health physics shifts and around
19 the clock environmental monitoring shifts. We contacted RMC, Radiation
20 Management Corp. I can't remember if the initial contact came before
21 or after our arrival at the site and we established and made arrangements
22 so that the next morning we were able to set up a TLD monitoring system
23 in the area. Trailers were brought in. Communications were set up.
24
25

1 It was basically a very hectic night/evening; however, as I say we had
2 health physicists at work in-plant and we had environmental monitors
3 out monitoring before midnight of the 30th.
4

5 GIBSON: Were the NRC environmental monitoring personnel directing any
6 activities of the licensee?
7

8 SMITH: No.
9

10 GIBSON: On the evening of the 30th, from 4:00 p.m. until midnight,
11 were the in-plant health physicist NRC personnel directing licensee
12 activities?
13

14 SMITH: Yes, they were actually acting as health physicists and I'm
15 sure issuing all RWPs or instructing people in proper precautions to be
16 taken.
17

18 GIBSON: Would you characterize their work as being more advisory or
19 more in the nature of order and direction?
20

21 SMITH: I am tempted to say yes. They were working in both, but as I
22 understand it during the first few days, their efforts were more giving
23 order and direction.
24
25

1 GIBSON: Can you recall specific orders or directions that were given
2 during this period?
3

4 SMITH: Actually during the 30th I cannot recall any specific orders or
5 direction. However, within the several days period of which the 30th
6 would have been the first, I can recall instances, one instance for one
7 of the Region I and health physicists required that all use of respiratory
8 equipment be stopped because of improper usage. I can also recall an
9 instance where a Region I health physicist monitored a job and directed
10 people as to how long they could work areas because of the very high
11 radiation fields existing. As far as recalling exactly things that
12 happened on the 30th in-plant, it was very hectic and my memory isn't
13 really that good.
14

15 GIBSON: The two examples you mentioned, one was an order that all
16 respiratory protective equipment in use be, use of this equipment be
17 discontinued, was this, did this occur on the 30th or the 31st to your
18 recollection.
19

20 SMITH: Most probable it occurred on the 31st.
21

22 GIBSON: And the example on monitoring of work in high radiation areas
23 and determining stay times?
24
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1 SMITH: That I can't recall, I know that it occurred as I said sometime
2 in the several day period of which the start of it would be the 31st, I
3 sure it occurred after the 31st.
4

5 GIBSON: You arrived onsite approximately 4:00 p.m. following which you
6 announced that the organizational arrangement that you had determined
7 appropriate. At what time were health physics people actually sent
8 into the plant to begin work under the new organization arrangement?
9

10 SMITH: I was going to say that health physics people were in the plant
11 at all times on the 30th and M&C health physics people, as best I can
12 recall and this is recalling through a great, well a lot of haze, we
13 had our people in-plant by 10:00 p.m. that night. We had our organi-
14 zation all structure operation that as best as I can recall.
15

16 GIBSON: Would it be reasonable to conclude then that prior to 10:00
17 p.m. on the 30th, the Office of Inspection and Enforcement people
18 offsite were operating in a data collection and information gathering
19 mode and the new guidelines which call for directing licensee operations
20 were not implemented until approximately 10:00 p.m.?
21

22 SMITH: I would say that is probably a proper characterization. I will
23 say this I have not discussed that point in great detail with the
24 people that were in the plant.
25

1 GIBSON: During the period of the 28 through the 30 of March, can you
2 describe the interface that you and your staff had with the licensee?
3 That is, did you have a routine interface with some member of the
4 licensee management, was the interface primarily at the working level?
5

6 SMITH: The interface was, the organization that I set up had two lead
7 people reporting directly to me. One of them was the in-plant health
8 physicist, Bill Fisher. I know that he had an interface with TMI
9 health physics management people. The other individual, Phil Stohr,
10 who had the environmental and the analytical group, I know that he
11 interfaced as far as sample analysis and that went with people from
12 Three Mile Island. With respect to the offsite analysis I do not know
13 what the interface there was. I had a rather informal interface with
14 several members of Met Ed Management.
15

16 GIBSON: You mentioned that the shift leaders or team leaders in your
17 organization were Mr. Bill Fisher and Phil Stohr. These people reported
18 directly to you and who did you report to?
19

20 SMITH: I reported directly to Boyce Grier, who is the Director of
21 Region I.
22

23 GIBSON: And who did he report to?
24
25

1 SMITH: Informally, he appeared to report to Mr. Denton; formally, he
2 reported, I'm sure within our organizational structure, to John Davis,
3 who is the Acting Director, of the Office of Inspection and Enforcement.
4

5 GIBSON: Do you recall the names of the people initially assigned to
6 Mr. Stohr's team?
7

8 SMITH: Yes, I do.
9

10 GIBSON: Would you give us those names please?
11

12 SMITH: Certainly.
13

14 GIBSON: And would you spell them?
15

16 SMITH: Allright, I can give you only last names in the mobile labora-
17 tory. They were: Costello, Jackson, and Kottan. All three of the
18 above are from Region I. The survey teams, one team consisted of
19 Grant, Paul, Ashley. I would like to note here that Mr. Ashley is from
20 the Office of State Programs at Headquarters. There are several indi-
21 viduals in this organization who are from that office, and who aren't
22 from the Office of Inspection and Enforcement. All other people
23 unless noted otherwise are from the Office of Inspection and Enforcement.
24 Scrinowski, Montgomery, Woodruff, Young, O'Neil, Andrews, Perrotti,
25

1 Dicey, and McGrath. McGrath is from the Office of State Programs.
2 Those are the names of the persons that were were initially assigned to
3 Mr. Stohr under our initial organization.
4

5 GIBSON: Could you state and spell the names of the people assigned to
6 Mr. Fisher please?
7

8 SMITH: I can.
9

10 SMITH: Hiat, Tongue, Yuhas, Nimitz, Jackson, Smith, Jenkins, Troup,
11 White, Collins, Zabadowski, Gallina, Kendig, (Mr. Kendig is from the
12 Office of State Programs), Axelson, Neeley, Plumlee, Miller, Serabian.
13 I misspelled Mr. Neely's name, it's Neely. In addition, I had a number
14 of people who were assigned directly to me who performed various functions.
15 They are Essig, G. Gibson, Kerr (Mr. Kerr is with the Office of State
16 Programs), McPhail, Donaldson.
17

18 GIBSON: Thank you, Mr. Smith. Now I would like to go back to a point
19 that you mentioned earlier. You mentioned that at one point the health
20 physics people under your direction ordered or directed that all respira-
21 tory use of respiratory protective equipment be stopped. Would you
22 care to describe that in a little more detail?
23
24
25

1 SMITH: The individual who detected the problem, Mr. Yuhas of my staff,
2 determined that the manner in which they were cleaning the respiratory
3 protective equipment was such and that they were using chemicals to
4 clean and such, that use of the equipment would be hazardous to the
5 individual's health, actually to the point one of the chemicals that
6 was being used was marked that it could be fatal. The entire procedure
7 that they were using was not what we would consider an acceptable
8 procedure. Therefore all use of respiratory protective equipment was
9 ordered stopped, and was stopped, until they could well get their act
10 in order.

11
12 GIBSON: On several occasions during the period of the 28th through the
13 30th of March, respirators were worn in the Unit 2 and in the Unit 1
14 control rooms. There has been some discussion about whether the decision
15 to wear respirators in these areas was appropriate. Do you recall any
16 involvement of the NRC in the decision on whether to wear respirators
17 in the control room, whether or not respirators should be worn in the
18 control room.

19
20 SMITH: I do not recall such a decision, however, I would not unequivocally
21 state that the NRC had no part in such a decision.

22
23 GIBSON: Thank you, Mr. Smith. That's all the questions I have today.
24 Mr. Foster, do you have anything to add?

1 FOSTER: I don't.
2

3 GIBSON: Mr. Smith, usually at this time we give the people that we
4 have interviewed an opportunity to state anything that they may care to
5 say for the records regarding this experience, do you have any comments
6 you would like to make at this time?
7

8 SMITH: I have no comments other than for the record that is truly part
9 of the record, I would like to comment that the Inspection and Enforcement
10 health physicists are truly an outstanding group of people who did an
11 outstanding job during this event.
12

13 GIBSON: Thank you, Mr. Smith.
14

15 FOSTER: This interview is now concluded, the time is 1:44 p.m.
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