

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

1 In the Matter of:

2 IE TMI INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW

3 of Miss Juanita A. Gingrich  
4 Auxiliary Operator C  
5  
6  
7  
8

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

13 May 22, 1979  
14 (Date of Interview)

15 July 3, 1979  
16 (Date Transcript Typed)

17 245  
18 (Tape Number(s))  
19  
20

21 NRC PERSONNEL:

22 Mr. Dorwin Hunter  
23 Mr. Mark E. Resner  
24  
25

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1 RESNER: The following is an interview of Miss Juanita A. Gingrich.  
2 Miss Gingrich, excuse me Mrs. Gingrich is employed with the Metropolitan  
3 Edison Company at the Three Mile Island Facility and her job title is  
4 Auxiliary Operator C. Present time is 2:03 p.m. Eastern Daylight time  
5 and today's date is May 22, 1979. This interview is being conducted in  
6 trailer 203, which is located just outside of the south gate to the  
7 Three Mile Island Facility. Individuals present for NRC representing,  
8 excuse me, individuals present representing the NRC are Mr. Dorwin  
9 Hunter. Mr. Hunter is an Inspection Specialist temporarily assigned to  
10 Region III. Monitoring this interview is Mark E. Resner, I am investigator  
11 with the Office of Inspector and Auditor, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory  
12 Commission in HQ. Prior to taping this interview Mrs. Gingrich was  
13 given a two page document which advised her of the purpose, the scope  
14 and the authority with which the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has  
15 been given to conduct this investigation, in addition this document  
16 apprised Miss Gingrich of the fact that she is entitled to a representa-  
17 tive of her choice to be present during the interview should she  
18 desire one and that in no way is she compelled to talk us should she  
19 not want to. The second page of this includes three questions which I  
20 will state for the record. Question 1, do you understand the above?  
21 Mrs. Gingrich has checked yes, is that correct Miss Gingrich?

22 GINGRICH: Yes.  
23  
24  
25

1 RESNER: Question 2, do we have your permission to tape the interview?  
2 Miss Gingrich has indicated yes, is that correct?

3  
4 GINGRICH: Yes.

5  
6 RESNER: Question 3, Do you want a copy of the tape? Mrs. Gingrich  
7 has checked yes, is that correct Miss Gringrich?

8  
9 GINGRICH: Yes, please.

10  
11 RESNER: Okay we'll provide you with a copy of the tape at the end of  
12 the interview. At this time I will ask Miss Gingrich if she will give  
13 a brief synopsis of her education and job experience as related to the  
14 job that you personally perform, Miss Gingrich?

15  
16 GINGRICH: I went to Florida State University and graduated there with  
17 a BS in Criminology. I came here to Three Mile Island working as a  
18 guard and didn't find very much satisfaction in the job, or much of a  
19 challenge to it so I chose to try and become an operator. I took the  
20 exam and was qualified to take you know, to become an operator and go  
21 into the training program. My background itself is not related to much  
22 to the Nuclear Industry. I had, you know basic math courses and chemistry  
23 courses in college but that's about the limit.  
24  
25

1 RESNER: Ok, thank you very much, at this time Mr. Hunter has some  
2 questions he would like to ask you.

3  
4 HUNTER: Juanita, going back to March 28 you were on the 3 to 11 shift  
5 on Bill Zewe's shift at that time.

6  
7 GINGRICH: 11 to 7 shift.

8  
9 HUNTER: Ah 11 to 7 shift.

10  
11 GINGRICH: Yes sir.

12  
13 HUNTER: What activities were you involved in around 4:00 in the  
14 morning when the Unit tripped?

15  
16 GINGRICH: Well, fellows, I had secondary operations that evening,  
17 which entails doing miscellaneous jobs or anything that they happen to  
18 come up with for you to handle. And that night around, about an hour  
19 before, I was adding hydrogen to the generator. They had a leak and so  
20 they had asked me to go down there and take care of that. Around 4:00  
21 I was on my way up to the Control Room and that's whenever I heard the  
22 turbine tripping and then I immediately went into the Control Room to  
23 see where they wanted me to go and what they wanted me to do because  
24 they always, you know, it's best just to be on hand waiting for them  
25 to tell you. And after that, myself and Harold Forrest, they sent us

1 down to the feed pumps because they had problem with the turning gear  
2 on the feed pumps, so they asked us to check into that and we saw that  
3 neither of them were working so we called the Control Room and they  
4 tried starting them from up there and they got the "A" to start on the  
5 turning gear and the "B" wouldn't start so we had to start jacking it  
6 by hand to keep the shaft from warping you have to turn the shaft like  
7 a half a turn every two minutes and it's more or less a continuous job  
8 and that's where I was for the most of the evening except for one time  
9 the other guy was working and I went and was helping Terry Dougherty,  
10 I was helping him out with the hydrogen seal oil. The temperatures  
11 were leveling out. We were trying to get the temperatures up. Around a  
12 quarter of 7, I heard the atmospheric monitors go off by the vacuum  
13 pump, the "C" vacuum pump and that's, that was the first time I had  
14 realized that something besides a normal plant trip had occurred. And  
15 then right after that the announcements were given and everything.  
16 Also at one time, when I first went down there I checked the vacuum  
17 pumps as far as their levels, their temperatures and they seemed  
18 normal, that was before I had started that work on the feed pump and  
19 once later on in the, you know, when after I had been doing that  
20 awhile I switched off and went over and looked at it.

21 HUNTER: Okay, you indicated for me, Hunter speaking, you indicated  
22 that you went to the Control Room and did you stand around very long,  
23 a few minutes?  
24  
25

1 GINGRICH: No, I just got up there and they were working and they  
2 turned around and told us to go down there.

3  
4 HUNTER: Have you been in the Control Room before during trips, or  
5 reported to the Control Room during a trip?

6  
7 GINGRICH: At other trips one time I was outside, another time I was  
8 in the plant and they paged me soon after, but this just happened  
9 conveniently that I was close to it so that's why I went up there  
10 right away.

11  
12 HUNTER: In the other cases when you were outside did you make it back  
13 to the Control Room, fairly quickly after the trip.

14  
15 GINGRICH: Yes, I was heading for that and then they would page me,  
16 the one time they had paged me before I had got there and another time  
17 I ran into a fellow worker and he told me what to do.

18  
19 HUNTER: When you got to the Control Room this time Juanita, was the  
20 activity in the Control Room \_\_\_\_\_ did it appear any different then  
21 it had before?

22  
23 GINGRICH: No it seems like well in any trip that we ever had that  
24 I've noticed they kind of go into a panic which is normal. I mean not  
25 really a panic but you know everybody is busy and it didn't seem any

1 different at the time and I didn't even notice anything different and  
2 I don't think any of the other guys on my shift did either until later  
3 on in the morning.

4  
5 HUNTER: Okay Juanita, who asked you to go down to the feed pump?

6  
7 GINGRICH: It was Ed Fredrick.

8  
9 HUNTER: Do you recall where Ed was at that time he had asked you to  
10 go down to the feed pumps?

11  
12 GINGRICH: He was up in the, in the middle, I really don't know exactly  
13 he was in the middle of the Control Room doing different things.

14  
15 HUNTER: Juanita was Craig Faust in the Control Room?

16  
17 GINGRICH: Yes.

18  
19 HUNTER: Fred Scheimann at that time.

20  
21 GINGRICH: Yes.

22  
23 HUNTER: Bill Zewe was he there?  
24  
25

1 GINGRICH: Yes, no I'm sorry Fred Scheimann wasn't in the Control Room  
2 at that time.

3  
4 HUNTER: Do you know where he, did you see him somewhere?

5  
6 GINGRICH: Yeah, when I went, I saw him down by the polishers later  
7 on. Soon after that, he was on his way upstairs at the time.

8  
9 HUNTER: He was on his way back to the Control Room, okay.

10  
11 GINGRICH: Yeah.

12  
13 HUNTER: Did it take you very long to get to the Control Room after  
14 you heard the turbine trip?

15  
16 GINGRICH: No cause I was on my way, I was up the stairs, I mean the  
17 elevator.

18  
19 HUNTER: 2 minutes.

20  
21 GINGRICH: Probably a minute.

22  
23 HUNTER: Okay as far as turning around and going to the feed pumps,  
24 was that very quickly. Did Ed Frederick turn around and say go check  
25 the feed pumps?



1 GINGRICH: Really I'm not positive on that, it was a couple of minutes  
2 I believe, I'm not really positive.

3  
4 HUNTER: Juanita you indicated that ah, you made a couple trips to the  
5 vacuum pumps, it's not very far from the feed pump to the vacuum  
6 pumps?

7  
8 GINGRICH: No it's real close.

9  
10 HUNTER: Didn't you say you heard a radiation area monitor on the  
11 vacuum system discharge alarm?

12  
13 GINGRICH: It's on the wall right next to the "C" vacuum pump.

14  
15 HUNTER: So it wasn't difficult to hear that alarm when it went off?

16  
17 GINGRICH: No it was real loud, in fact...

18  
19 HUNTER: Did you know what it was at that time?

20  
21 GINGRICH: Not at first until I walked up to it, I heard the alarm and  
22 I went over to it and I couldn't figure out why it was going off at  
23 first you know and then it hit me and that's when I realized there...  
24  
25

1 HUNTER: Did you report that alarm to anyone?

2  
3 GINGRICH: Well I was going over to report it whenever they made the  
4 announcement about it.

5  
6 HUNTER: Then when they made the announcement did you end up going  
7 back to the feed pump and staying at that feed pump?

8  
9 GINGRICH: Yes.

10  
11 HUNTER: Your next activity after the feed pump, did you check the  
12 vacuum pumps anymore or get involved in trying to maintain vacuum or  
13 reestablish vacuum?

14  
15 GINGRICH: I did walk back one other time after that and they appeared  
16 okay as far as the temperatures and the levels but I don't recollect  
17 exactly how much longer or the exact time span.

18  
19 HUNTER: Did you have any other activities before you left besides,  
20 that day, that you were involved in?

21  
22 GINGRICH: No, I got relieved from the feed pump and was sent up to  
23 the Control Room then for relief.  
24  
25

1 HUNTER: And you went to the Unit 2 Control Room.

2  
3 GINGRICH: Yes, first.

4  
5 HUNTER: Where did you go from there?

6  
7 GINGRICH: Then we went over to A0 Central, he told us to go over  
8 there and then from there they sent us over to the Unit 1 Control  
9 Room.

10  
11 HUNTER: And from the Unit 1 Control Room did you have any work there  
12 or were you just passing through?

13  
14 GINGRICH: No they were just trying to decide what we should do and  
15 then we left shortly after that.

16  
17 HUNTER: Where did you go from there, the Unit 1 Control Room, when  
18 you left?

19  
20 GINGRICH: Out through the processing center, over to the 50K Station.

21  
22 HUNTER: 500K Station.

23  
24 GINGRICH: Yeah.

25

1 HUNTER: 500 thousand volt...

2  
3 GINGRICH: Yeah.

4  
5 HUNTER: And what did they do there?

6  
7 GINGRICH: They checked us with the radiation monitors, when over us  
8 and made sure we weren't contaminated or...

9  
10 HUNTER: Were you in a car?

11  
12 GINGRICH: Yes.

13  
14 HUNTER: They checked your car also.

15  
16 GINGRICH: They checked our vehicles also.

17  
18 HUNTER: And you went home at that time?

19  
20 GINGRICH: Yes.

21  
22 HUNTER: What time was that approximately, do you recall? Noon, before  
23 noon, afternoon?  
24  
25

1 GINGRICH: It was, I believe around 11:30, quarter to 12.

2  
3 HUNTER: What time did you come back to work?

4  
5 GINGRICH: 11:00 the next night.

6  
7 HUNTER: For the 11 to 7?

8  
9 GINGRICH: Yeah, that same evening.

10  
11 HUNTER: Okay were you involved in any, do you recall, just to make  
12 sure we go through, you were on the feed pumps. Were you involved in  
13 activities around the condensate pump system at all during the time  
14 you were there?

15  
16 GINGRICH: No, I looked over and saw the leak, the leak coming down  
17 from the booster pump there and the other men were over they taking  
18 care of that so I really didn't really get involved at all with that.

19  
20 HUNTER: Ok, instrument air service air system, that system were you  
21 involved with that at all?

22  
23 GINGRICH: No, none.  
24  
25

1 HUNTER: Okay the ah, do you recall who relieved you on the feed pump  
2 when you left?

3  
4 GINGRICH: Yeah Dave Smith, that was around 8:00.

5  
6 HUNTER: Where's the AO central the auxiliary operator central, located?

7  
8 GINGRICH: [REDACTED] the north end of the turbine floor there.

9  
10 HUNTER: Okay is that, I'm trying to get myself oriented, on the  
11 turbine floor there's an elevator, a candy machine and all on one end.

12  
13 GINGRICH: Yeah.

14  
15 HUNTER: Is that the end of the tunnel?

16  
17 GINGRICH: Straight ahead and to the left, on the other side of the...

18  
19 HUNTER: Okay I have no further questions, do you have any comments  
20 you'd like to make?

21  
22 GINGRICH: No I can't really say too much. As a newcomer I can't add  
23 too much as far as what else I could of done or what else someone else  
24 should of done because I really just don't, I'm not that knowledgable  
25 as to what, details of anything.

1 HUNTER: Okay thank you Juanita, I appreciate your time.  
2

3 RESNER: Thank you very much, the time now is 2:17 p.m. Eastern Daylight  
4 time and this concludes the interview.  
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