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PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE :  
ACCIDENT AT THREE MILE ISLAND :

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DEPOSITION of METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY  
by JOHN JAMES MCGARRY, held at the Three Mile Island  
Nuclear Generating Station on the 20th day of July  
1979, commencing at 4:20 p.m., before Stanley Rudbarg,  
Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public of the  
State of New York.

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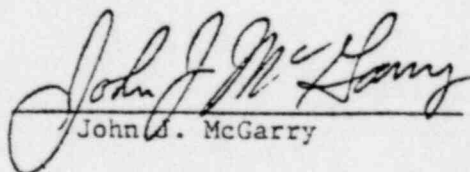
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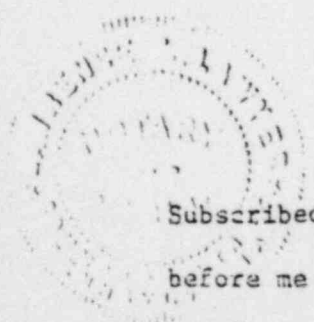
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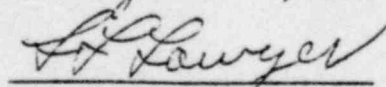
PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE  
ACCIDENT AT THREE MILE ISLAND

Corrections to July 20, 1979, Deposition of John J. McGarry

<u>Page</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>To Read</u>
12	17	DON SHETLIN	DAN SHOVLIN
14	11	SECURITY EVENT INSIDE	SECURITY FENCE INSIDE
20	11	SANDY WARE	SANDY LAWYER
21	25	HAT	THAT

  
John J. McGarry

  
Subscribed and sworn to  
before me this 3<sup>rd</sup> day  
of August, 1979

  
Notary Public

NOTARY PUBLIC  
Reading, Berks County, Pa.  
My Commission Expires Nov 19 1979

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A In the parking lot of the observation center.

Q You did not know who these two people were?

A No, I did not.

Q But was the only contact you had?

A That was the only contact I had.

Q Is it correct to state that your responsibilities from approximately midnight on March 28 and for about a week and a half encompassed maintenance concerns?

A Yes.

MS. GOLDFRANK: Do you have any questions?

MR. YUSPER: I have none.

Q I have no further questions at this time.

We would recess this deposition. We don't anticipate that we would have you come back to ask you further questions, but it is possible that we would call you back.

A Yes.

(The deposition was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.)

*John James McGarry*  
-----  
John James McGarry

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 1979

*L. L. Leuzier*  
-----  
Notary Public

Notary Public  
Reading, Berks County, Pa.  
My Commission Expires Nov. 19 1979



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A P P E A R A N C E S :

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY:

SHAW, PITTMAN, POTTS & TROWBRIDGE, ESQS.  
Attorneys for Metropolitan Edison Company  
1800 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

BY: ALAN R. YUSPEH, ESQ.  
of Counsel

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THREE MILE ISLAND:

JOAN GOLDFRANK, ESQ.  
Associate Counsel

ALSO PRESENT:

CLAUDIA A. VELLETRI  
PHILIP STEARN, Consultant  
President's Commission

oOo

J O H N J A M E S M c G A R R Y , SR., having  
been duly sworn by Ms. Goldfrank, testified as  
follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION  
BY MS. GOLDFRANK:

Q Would you state your name?

A John James McGarry, Sr.

Q Could you state your current address?

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A 1019 Clearview Drive, RD #1, Middletown,  
Pennsylvania.

Q And your current employer?

A Metropolitan Edison Company.

Q And your current position?

A Supervisor of mechanical maintenance.

Q Did you bring with you a resume?

A Yes, I did.

MS. GOLDFRANK: I would like to mark as  
McGarry Deposition Exhibit 1 a resume of John  
James McGarry.

(Above-described document was marked McGarry  
Deposition Exhibit 1 for identification.)

Q Did you prepare this resume?

A Yes.

Q Did you prepare it currently?

A Yes, last night.

Q You completed one semester of undergraduate  
work at Temple University during the period September  
1965 to June 1966?

A Yes. That was the only time I was on shore duty.

Q Prior to that, you were in the Navy, is  
that correct?

A I was in the Navy then.

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2 Q You were in the Navy then?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Was that training at Temple University  
5 part of your responsibilities in the Navy?

6 A No, I was going to school for myself.

7 Q And how was it that you were able to attend  
8 Temple University?

9 A I went to night school. I was stationed at the  
10 Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

11 Q From what date were you in the Navy?

12 A I enlisted in the Navy September 19, 1949, and  
13 I retired November 2, 1972.

14 Q And what training did you receive while  
15 you were in the Navy?

16 A I have it all there. May I read it off from  
17 the transcript?

18 Q Could you explain to me where you state  
19 that you attended classes as a machinist's mate?

20 A Yes. That is a basic enlisted school. That is  
21 three months. They teach the basics of naval engineer-  
22 ing, machine shop practices and overhaul of equipment.

23 Q And all these schools that you list that  
24 you attended in the Navy, were they taught by the Navy?

25 A In some instances, yes. Let me see. I had

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civilian instructors at the Nuclear Power Plant Operator Training, which was in Arco, Idaho, and also at the Officers Candidate School.

Q You had civilian instructors, but they were --

A It was Navy-run, run by the Government.

Q Could you explain what your training at the basic Nuclear Power School was, from January '59 to June '59, what it entailed?

A The basic school was at a Navy shipyard at Mare Island, California. This school consisted of basic nuclear physics, basic common physics, metallurgy, basic electricity, basic chemistry, mathematics, health physics. We had also systems and components. I may have missed something, but it has been a while.

Q Was this classroom training?

A Was there any practical experience?

A Not there. Excuse me, yes, we had some basic welding, and it was only a short course. It was in the afternoons. It lasted about three weeks, two hours a day.

Q And were you given a grade at the end of this course?

A We were given a class standing, and out of 150,



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2 I was somewhere in the 80's, I don't remember.

3 Q And what did your training from July '59  
4 to January '60 at the Nuclear Power Plant Operator  
5 Training comprise?

6 A That was all plant operations training: operate,  
7 startup and run equipment.

8 Q Was it a practical school?

9 A Practical in what sense?

10 Q In the sense that you actually start up?

11 A Yes, we had to start all pieces of equipment,  
12 including taking the reactor critical.

13 Q Was this a research reactor?

14 A No, it was an exact duplicate of the reactors  
15 installed on the -- let me think of the name of the  
16 ship -- the ENTERPRISE. It consisted of two reactors,  
17 a complete main turbine, which could be run as a  
18 water wheel for a brake, so it wouldn't run away, and  
19 they had all the auxiliary equipment so that it looked  
20 like the inside of the ship.

21 Q Did it generate power?

22 A No, the power was dissipated by the water wheel,  
23 the water brake.

24 Q And how many people were in that school  
25 in your particular class?

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A Well, we started out with 150. I think there w-re probably 120 that completed the operator training phase in my particular class.

Q So there would be 120 of you working on an actual reactor?

A No. It was in shift work. We were set up in crews, just like we would be on a ship, and as many people as were necessary to run the plant were there, plus they had trainees.

The job of the trainee was to go out and learn the physical plant first, and then you had to sign off cards for everything you did. You would have to go out and trace out a system, and then you would go and walk through the system with an instructor and explain to them what the system was, what it did, make a drawing of the complete system when you were done, and that is the same way with the controls and the other things.

Q Did you have an exam at the end of this school?

A You did the exam with the checkoff.

Q Were you evaluated at each checkoff?

A Yes. That is what I just explained. You went out and learned it, and then after you learned that, you would go with an instructor, and then he would

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2 check you out on the system, and if you passed, then  
3 he would sign.

4 Q So he gave you a written evaluation as to  
5 each checkoff?

6 A We also took a written test along with it on  
7 each thing we did, on each system.

8 Q Was there an exam at the end?

9 A No, it would have been too large an exam to give  
10 all at once. You checked out on systems and components.

11 Q You did not have a cumulative exam at the  
12 end; you had evaluations as you went along?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And in July 1973, you began your employment  
15 with Met Edison?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And what was your first position at Met  
18 Edison?

19 A I came to Met Edison in the position I now hold.

20 Q You have held the same position for your  
21 entire career?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And have you received any training while  
24 at Met Edison?

25 A We received a B&W course on assembly and

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2 disassembly of reactor internals. We also received,  
3 as part of that training, we also had instruction on  
4 the actual physical disassembly of a reactor under B&W  
5 guidance. We had a short school on diesel engines,  
6 and we had a seal seminar, a mechanical seal seminar  
7 for sealing pumps.

8 We had -- I don't remember if it was a one-week  
9 or two-week course -- on disassembly of reactor coolant  
10 pumps. I don't remember the length of time.

11 Q All the training --

12 A That was by Westinghouse.

13 Q Other than that one course, was all the  
14 training that you have had since at Met Edison given  
15 to you by B&W?

16 A No. The reactor assembly and disassembly was  
17 given by B&W. The reactor coolant pumps was by  
18 Westinghouse. The seal seminar was by Chesterton  
19 Company, and the diesel engine course was by Fairbanks  
20 Morse.

21 Q Is Fairbanks Morse a company?

22 A Yes, they manufacture diesel engines.

23 Q And would these courses have been given  
24 at various company sites?

25 A No, it was done here on-site.

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2 Q Were all of these courses given at TMI?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Were written exams given at the end of  
5 these courses?

6 A No.

7 Q Was any kind of evaluation given?

8 A No.

9 Q Were you asked to evaluate the course?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Were you asked in written form to evaluate  
12 these courses?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And what was your opinion of these courses?  
15 Why don't you go one by one?

16 A The Westinghouse seal and pump disassembly was  
17 very good. It is all practical technical training. I  
18 thought it was well presented.

19 The B&W reactor internals assembly and disassembly  
20 was outstanding, and we learned a tremendous amount.  
21 We do it ourselves now.

22 The seal school was fair, that is, the Chesterton  
23 seal school, and the diesel engine course was fair,  
24 also. But it was geared more for people who had  
25 extensive training in diesel engines. That is a field

1  
2 unto itself, a very difficult field to master.

3 Q Was there homework assigned in these  
4 courses?

5 A No.

6 Q Were mpamphlets given out?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Were you asked to read these?

9 A Oh, yes.

10 Q Would you be expected to read them during--

11 A On occasion, they asked. In the Westinghouse  
12 course, they asked us to do some preliminary reading  
13 because they were behind when they came here. In  
14 the B&W course on the reactors, I did it because I  
15 wanted to do it. No, I don't remember that they did.

16 Q Is there any any training specifically  
17 required by you as an employee in your position at  
18 Metropolitan Edison.

19 Would you state the question again.

20 (Previous question was read back.)

21 A There is none required by me.

22 Q Is there any required by the Training  
23 Department?

24 A They are starting a training course now, and I  
25 know it as been laid out. I did review it. Yes,

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there will be courses that I will have to take.

Q Up until this point, there have not been any that were required?

A There have been several attempts at starting it, but we didn't because we hadn't gotten to the point where we could devote the time to it.

Q What is the course now that has been laid out that you have reviewed?

A I don't remember.

Q Can you tell me generally what it concerns?

A There were courses in management and administration. That is the only ones I can remember. I can't remember the technical ones. Yes, we did have a three-day maintenance seminar also, Marshall Maintenance.

Q Who do you report to?

A Don Shetlin.

Q What is his title?

A Superintendent of Maintenance.

(Continued on Page 13.)

1  
2 Q And are you the supervisor of Mechanical  
3 Maintenance for just Unit 2?

4 A No, Units 1 and 2, the whole island.

5 Q Your resume, Exhibit 1, indicates that you  
6 serve on various plant and company committees. Could  
7 you tell me which committees these are?

8 A Well, they have come and gone. We had a committee  
9 on river water pumps because we were having some problem  
10 with river water pumps. I was on that. Then there  
11 was the Tool Security Committee. I have been on others,  
12 but I can't remember.

13 Q You state the committees have come and  
14 gone. Is that because these committees have been  
15 created to respond to a particular problem?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And once that problem is solved, the  
18 committee dissolved?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Do you remember the particular purpose for  
21 setting up two committees as you previously mentioned?

22 A We have had problems with our river water pumps,  
23 and it was a committee to solve the technical problems  
24 that we were having at the time and it has since been  
25 disbanded.



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Q And the other committee?

A Tool Security Committee, that hasn't been disbanded, but on any large construction site, the pilferage is unbelievable. Millions and millions of taxpayers' dollars go down the drain. We were trying to solve that.

Q You mean on this island with the security?

A Yes. We didn't always have this security.

Q When was this security instituted?

A It has grown. When I first came here, we didn't have a security event inside. It has just grown from there. With each demand from NRC we get new things, new cameras this year, new sensors next year. It just grows. It is getting bigger and bigger. Pretty soon there will be more of them than us.

Q Your resume also indicates that you interact with vendors, technical representatives, other utility staffs, government agencies and the public.

A Yes.

Q Which particular vendors do you interact with?

A Anybody that we have the equipment of--B&W. Well, I could go on. We have 500 vendors.

Q Who at B&W do you interact with?

A It would depend on what the problem is.

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2 Q You would contact --

3 A We have an on-site staff here from B&W and I'm  
4 always in daily contact with them. It is just to see  
5 them or things that we are working on.

6 Q Would you go through them first before  
7 contacting B&W off site?

8 A No, not necessarily. We have B&W boilers, and  
9 they aren't involved in that.

10 Q What would you contact the people on the  
11 site for?

12 A Technical questions concerning the reactor and  
13 interest in the things that they gave us. When I say  
14 "they gave us," what they designed being built.

15 Q And with respect to the other issues, would  
16 you contact B&W people off site?

17 A There have been occasions that I have, yes.

18 Q Do you have contact with anybody at Burns &  
19 Roe?

20 A Once in a while, but not too frequently. I do  
21 have to call them for technical advice.

22 Q What kind of thing did you call them for?

23 A I'm trying to think of something specific. Well,  
24 if I needed input and we didn't have it, we might refer  
25 to them and we would call them for that. If it was

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a technical specification that we didn't have and we wanted it, we would call them because they are the design architects.

(Continued on next page.)

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Q When you refer to "print," is that --

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A A blueprint, excuse me.

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Q You state "other utility staffs." Would that be other companies such as Metropolitan Edison?

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A Yes.

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Q And for what reason would you contact the staffs?

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Q Do you ever visit other plants?

A Outside of the GPU group, no, I have not.

Q Which groups outside the GPU family have you had contact with?

A Well, I have talked to Duke Power, Oconee plant, Florida Power & Light Bristol River, San Francisco Municipal whatever it is, and the Rancho Seco plant. I have talked to them -- Consumer Power. I can't

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remember all the names.

Q What government agencies do you have contact with?

A NRC.

Q Who at the NRC?

A And also the State Code inspectors for boilers and pressure vessels.

Q Who at the NRC would you have contact with? Is there one individual?

A No.

Q Are there many individuals that you have contact with?

A Yes.

Q Are these people in King of Prussia or Bethesda?

A I assume most of the ones I have talked to came out of King of Prussia.

Q And under what circumstances would you have contact with the public?

A You mean as a representative of Metropolitan Edison Company?

Q Yes.

A I occasionally talk to people on the telephone who would come in or call in and make inquiry. I talked

2 to people during the incident up here that asked ques-  
3 tions of me. I don't do it as a daily routine, but it  
4 happens whenever you work with a company, people are  
5 bound to ask you questions.

6 Q Prior to March 28, 1979, people would call  
7 you to ask you a general question, you would provide  
8 them the answer?

9 A Yes.

10 Q You would not refer them to the public  
11 information office?

12 A It would depend on the question. You know, I  
13 mean they might call up and say, you know, "Can I visit  
14 the Island?" Well, obviously, they couldn't that is  
15 the type. It would be a judgment thing.

16 Q In certain instances you would refer them  
17 to public information?

18 A Yes. Well, we refer them to the observation  
19 center.

20 Q Were you on the Island at 4:00 a.m. on  
21 March 28?

22 A No, I was not.

23 Q What time did you arrive?

24 A When I arrived, the gate was closed. It was  
25 about 10 minutes of 7:00, somewhere around 7:00 o'clock.

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2 I just don't remember the exact time. But the gate was  
3 already closed and I was directed to the observation  
4 center.

5 Q How long did you stay at the observation  
6 center?

7 A Until around noon and I was directed to go home  
8 and come back at midnight.

9 Q Did you do that?

10 A Yes, I did.

11 Q You came back at midnight?

12 A Yes.

13 Q What were your responsibilities at that  
14 point?

15 A Trying to organize, help organize the people that  
16 were there, but maintenance people. At the time only  
17 the operations people were on the Island. All of the  
18 maintenance people were off the Island and we were  
19 working from the observation center and our basic thing  
20 was to, if they needed maintenance people, they would  
21 call to the observation center and we would send people  
22 over. And that night I don't remember sending anybody  
23 over.

24 Q How long did you remain on the Island or  
25 at the observation center?

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2 A We worked out of the observation center for about  
3 a week and a half and then we moved back onto the  
4 Island.

5 Q And for that week and a half your respon-  
6 sibilities were mainly the same?

7 A Yes.

8 Q During that period who did you report to?

9 A There were a number of people there. It changed  
10 from time to time. The only one I can think of that  
11 was there was Sandy Ware.

12 Q And that is the particular individual you  
13 reported to?

14 A Yes.

15 Q When you arrived here at approximately 7:00  
16 a.m. on March 28, who at that point told you to go home  
17 and come back?

18 A That happened around noon.

19 Q All right, at noon.

20 A I think it was Rich Seiglitz. He is the super-  
21 visor of maintenance for Unit 2. But I am not sure.

22 Q Between 7:00 a.m. when you first arrived  
23 and noon, you were just waiting at the gate?

24 A No, at the observation center.

25 Q At any time were you involved with contacting



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members of the public?

A No.

Q Did you contact any local official?

A No.

Q Did you have communications with any State agencies?

A No.

Q You indicated in your testimony earlier that you did have some contact with the public on that day. What was that contact?

MR. YUSPEH: Excuse me. I don't think he said that. You can read the record back. I think he made a general statement that occasionally he has contact with the public.

MS. GOLDFRANK: And I believe he indicated that on the day of the accident he did.

MR. YUSPEH: Mr. McGarry, did you have any contact with the public on the day of the accident?

THE WITNESS: Two people stopped me and asked me what was going on, and I told them we had a problem on the Island and I didn't have any other details.

Q Where did they stop you and ask you that?

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A In the parking lot of the observation center.

Q You did not know who these two people were?

A No, I did not.

Q But was the only contact you had?

A That was the only contact I had.

Q Is it correct to state that your responsibilities from approximately midnight on March 28 and for about a week and a half encompassed maintenance concerns?

A Yes.

MS. GOLDFRANK: Do you have any questions?

MR. YUSPEH: I have none.

Q I have no further questions at this time.

We would recess this deposition. We don't anticipate that we would have you come back to ask you further questions, but it is possible that we would call you back.

A Yes.

(The deposition was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.)

-----  
John James McGarry

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this-----day of-----, 1979

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Notary Public

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I N D E X

WITNESS

DIRECT

John James McGarry, Sr.

2

E X H I B I T S

McGARRY DEPOSITION  
FOR IDENTIFICATION

PAGE

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Resume of John James McGarry

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