

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

OCT 2 8 1981

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REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

LETTER DESIGNATIONS

TITLE:

CASE NUMBER:

SUPPLEMENTAL:

PERIOD OF INVESTIGATION:

STATUS OF INVESTIGATION:

INVESTIGATORS:

HQS-81-005

Docket Number 50-289

on Operator Examinations

October 19, 20 and 22, 1981

Closed

81

Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1/Investigation of Alleged Improprieties

Peter E. Baci, Senior Investigator Investigations Branch, EI Staff Office of Inspection and Enforcement

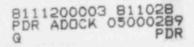
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Edward C. Gilbert, Investigator / Investigations Branch, EI Staff Office of Inspection and Enforcement

William J. Ward, Chief Investigations Branch, El Staff Office of Inspection and Enforcement

REPORT REVIEWED BY:

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SUMMARY

An investigation conducted by the Office of Inspection and Enforcement revealed that cheating had occurred during the course of the April 1981 NRC Operator Licensing Examinations given at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station (see Report of Investigation No. HQS-81-003, dated August 11, 1981). As a result of this revelation, the licensee (Met-Ed) conducted its own investigation to determine whether the scope of the cheating went beyond that identified by the NRC. The licensee's enquiry included interviews by senior management of selected Met-Ed/GPU personnel, including each individual who had taken the NRC examinations.

The interviews yielded certain new information which was promptly made available to the NRC. Specifically, one interviewee related an incident which occurred during the KELLY examinations given in the Spring of 1980. The individual recalled having received a telephone call while the examinations were ongoing; he stated that the caller asked him a question (that he answered) which he later learned had appeared on the exam.

The individual was interviewed by the NRC on October 19, 1981 concerning his recollection of the call. He could neither identify the caller nor provide any other information which would enable the NRC investigators to further investigate the allegation. While he did recall the question he was asked, he said it concerned an area which was stressed heavily in the training program. Based on the lack of any logical leads, this allegation remains unresolved.

A second interviewee (interviewed by Met-Ed/GPU management) advised that while taking the NRC examinations in April 1981, he had a chance encounter with another examinee at the coffee machine. He stated that while obtaining a cup of coffee, he was asked a question by the other party which he believed was on the NRC exam; further, the individual stated that he answered the question although he recognized at the time that it was improper conduct on his part. This information was verified by the NRC investigators who interviewed the individual on October 19, 20 and 22, 1981; however, the interviewee maintained that he could not recall either the name of the person who asked the question or the question that was asked. He told the investigators that it (his answering the question) was a spontaneous act which he knew was improper. At the time, however, he did not consider his actions "significant enough to constitute a cheating incident."

Both individuals provided signed sworn statements to the investigators documenting their actions as described above. Lacking any logical leads, the NRC anticipates no further investigative action in this matter.

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BACKGROUND

The NRC Office of Inspection and Enforcement (IE) recently conducted an investigation which disclosed that cheating had occurred during both the "mock" and NRC administered Operator Licensing Examinations at Three Mile Island in April 1981 (See IE Report of Investigation No. HQS-81-003, dated August 11, 1981). This investigation resulted in the resignation of two individuals who admitted cheating during these examinations. The investigation also surfaced rumors of additional cheating and established that conditions conducive to cheating existed; however, no substantive evidence of other instances of cheating was obtained.

In view of the results of the aforementioned IE investigation, the licensee (Met-Ed) initiated its own investigation in an attempt to determine whether additional instances of cheating had occurred. These enquiries consisted in part of interviews by senior licensee management of certain licensee personnel, including all individuals who had taken the NRC examinations. These interviews produced two additional incidents indicative of cheating. The disclosures were promptly provided to the NRC by John WILSON, an attorney representing GPU/Met-Ed; however the licensee requested that an investigation by the NRC be held in abeyance until management representatives had concluded their interviews. These interviews were completed on October 19, 1981.

Both of the new allegations pertained to unidentified and/or unrecalled individuals, presumably examinees, orally asking questions which apparently appeared on examinations while the exams were in process. The first allegation was elicited by Richard WILSON, Vice President for Technical Functions, GPU/Met-Ed, during his interview of WW, shift technical advisor. Reportedly, claimed he received a telephone call while the KELLY examinations were ongoing in the Spring of 1980. WW advised he answered a question posed by the unidentified caller, and he subsequently learned the question had appeared on the KELLY exams. The other allegation was made to Henry HUKILL, Director, TMI-1, during his interview of FF, operations engineer. Reportedly, FF revealed he had a chance encounter with an unrecalled individual at the coffee stand while he was taking the NRC examinations in April 1981. FFrelated he answered a question asked by the individual. Further, he assumed the other individual was concurrently taking the NRC exam (in another classroom) and the question appeared on the exam they were taking.

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PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATION

This investigation was conducted to obtain all available facts and circumstances of two additional reported instances of cheating during examinations at Three Mile Island.

INTERVIEW OF WW

On October 19, 1981, WW was interviewed by NRC Investigators Peter E. Baci and Edward C. Gilbert at the NRC Office at Three Mile Island (TMI). WW, who resides at has been employed by Met-Ed/GPU since June 1977. WW is currently assigned as a shift technical advisor (STA) working at TMI Unit 1.

WW was interviewed concerning a telephone call he allegedly received during the time of the contractor administered (KELLY) requalification exams in the Spring of 1980. $\bigvee W$ stated that he received the call while he was in the Unit 1 shift supervisor's office and was asked a question concerning the DNB curve. The caller, who did not identify himself, asked W W what the indices on the DNB (departure from nucleate boiling) curve were, and W Wtold him that the "Y" axis was the heat flux and the "X" axis was the Delta "T."

W W , told the investigators that he frequently was asked technical questions and that he did not attach any special significance to this one. He later learned that the question had appeared on the KELLY exams and this made him suspicious that perhaps the caller had been seeking the answer for someone who was taking the test. Nevertheless, he did not report his suspicions to anyone until he discussed it with his boss, 50 . and with Richard WILSON (Vice President for Technical Functions) some time after the September 1981 NRC investigation.

 \mathcal{W} w explained that while the question had reportedly been on the KELLY exam, it was the type of question which was stressed in the training program and one which he felt most operators could answer. He added that he inferred the caller was an operator because of the nature of the question; he did not know this to be the case. \mathcal{W} w continued that he did not ask who the caller was and the caller did not identify himself. According to \mathcal{W} w , the voice was familiar, but he could not put a name to it, either then or now. \mathcal{W} w stated that the caller knew who he was because he answered the phone by giving his name.

 \mathcal{W} indicated that he had no knowledge of other cheating beyond the rumors which he related to NRC investigators during an earlier interview.

 $\mathcal{W}\mathcal{W}$ provided a signed sworn statement which is included as Enclosure (1).

Investigator's Note: WW tape-recorded the interview with the NRC. A copy of the tape was not requested by or provided to the NRC.

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INTERVIEW OF FF

FF was interviewed on October 19 and 20, 1981 by NRC Investigators Edward C. Gilbert and Peter E. Baci at the NRC Office at Three Mile Island (TMI). **FF** advised he has been employed by Met-Ed/GPU since June 1974; that he is and he is a licensed Senior Reactor Operator (RO) assigned to Unit 1. He related he resides at

FF was i formed that his interview was necessitated as a result of a question which he was reportedly asked and which he allegedly answered during the course of the NRC administered reactor operator (RO) or SRO examinations in April 1981. FF stated he took the NRC RO and SRO exams in the nonsmoking classrooms on the first two days they were administered (April 21 and 22, 1981). He revealed that on one of these two days he left the classroom briefly to go to the coffee stand; that while he was obtaining coffee, another individual asked him a question which he answered. FF averred he could not recall the identity of the individual, the question posed or his response. However, he conceded that at the time he assumed the individual was concurrently taking the same examination in the smoking classroom and that the question presumably appeared on the exam they were taking. He remarked there were no witnesses to this incident and they each returned to their respective classrooms following the brief exchange.

FF uescribed the incident as an unpremeditated encounter. He further explained that he had responded to the question spontaneously since TMI personnel regularly ask each other questions for general information and when preparing for examinations. He also suggested he may have reacted out of compassion for his co-worker in the prevailing atmosphere of a close-knit group. FFstated that at the time he considered this an insignificant event which did not constitute a cheating incident; accordingly he had not previously reported the situation to Company management or the NRC.

He related that he first brought this incident to management's attention during a discussion he had with Henry HUKILL, Director, TMI-1, on October 7, 1981. He explained he provided this information in response to specific questions by HUKILL concerning his participation in, knowledge of or facilitation of cheating during any examinations. If F reiterated that he acknowledged to HUKILL that although he had reservations regarding the propriety of the incident, he did not consider it significant enough to constitute cheating.

FF. concluded that after discussing the episode with HUKILL and Investigators GILBERT and BACI, he recognizes that in view of current events, he acted improperly by answering the question and failing to consider the incident of significant importance to be reported. He averred that he will never be a participant in a similar situation and agreed to make available to the NRC any additional information which comes to his attention or recollection. Further, he denied knowledge of any other cheating incidents which had not already been reported to the NRC. At the conclusion of the interview on October 19, 1981,

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and the

FF agreed to swear to and sign a written statement containing the details of the interview, which would be prepared by Investigator GILBERT.

Investigator's Note: At FF request, he was allowed to tape-record his interview with the NRC on October 19, 1981. A copy of the tape was neither requested by nor provided to the NRC.

During the interview of October 20, 1981, FF was provided with the written statement incorporating the information he had furnished on October 19, 1981. After reading the statement and making minor corrections, FF orally concurred with its accuracy. However, he declined to sign or swear to the statement at this time; explaining that he wished to further review the contents and compare them with his tape recording of the interview. Accordingly, a copy of the statement was provided to FF

REINTERVIEW OF FF

On October 22, 1981, FF was reinterviewed by Investigators Gilbert and Baci at the NRC Office at Three Mile Island for the purpose of obtaining a signed sworn statement detailing his previous disclosures. FF advised that rather than swearing to and signing the written statement which had been prepared by Investigator Gilbert, he preferred to submit a statement regarding the incident which he had written. FF's unsigned statement is Enclosure (2) and his signed sworn statement is Enclosure (3).

Investigator's Note: The statement executed by \mathcal{FF} is similar in contents to the unsigned statement with the exception of his admitting in the signed statement that he realized at the time of the incident that he was acting improperly by answering the question, whereas the unsigned statement indicates he was not sure that there was anything wrong in his or the other individual's actions.

CONCLUSIONS OF REPORTING INVESTIGATORS

This investigation was conducted to determine the facts and circumstances surrounding reported irregularities in the examination of licensed operators at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station (Unit 1).

The first irregularity concerned a phone call made to a shift technical advisor (STA) during the course of the requalification (or KELLY) examinations given in the Spring of 1980. Received by STA WW in the shift supervisor's office, the telephone call consisted of a question concerning the "indices on the DNB curve" and WW's answer to the caller. The caller did not identify himself and WW could not provide any clues as to his identity.

While WW later learned that the question asked of him had appeared on the KELLY exam, he stated that it dealt with an area which is stressed in the Company training program and he could not say that the caller was improperly seeking assistance while taking the examination. Lacking any logical leads to pursue, and considering the time which has elapsed since the KELLY exams, the NRC plans no further investigative action and this allegation must be considered unresolved.

The second irregularity concerned FFwho took the NRC RO/SRO examinations given on April 21-22, 1981, told NRC investigators that during a chance encounter at the coffee stand, he was asked (and answered) a question which he assumed was on the NRC exam; further, this action took place while FF and the other individual were concurrently taking the license examination. FF acknowledged to the investigators that he recognized (at the time) that answering the other individual's question was improper conduct on his (FF'S) part.

Beyond FF'_{5} acknowledgement of his misconduct, he maintained that he was unable to recall either the identity of the other individual or the specific question he was asked. Lacking any logical leads, the NRC plans no further investigative action in this matter.

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STATUS OF INVESTIGATION

Based upon the information gathered during this investigation, and lacking any logical leads, the Director, Enforcement and Investigations Staff, IE:HQ, has determined that no further investigative effort is warranted. Accordingly, this investigation is closed.

ENCLOSURES

- (1) Statement of WW
- (2) Unsigned Statement of **F**F
- (3) Statement of FF

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Place: Three Mile (1). Date: CCT 20 1981

STATEMENT

I, <u>W M</u>, hereby make the following voluntary statement to <u>PETER F. BACI</u> who has identified himself to me as an Investigator with the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I make this statement freely with no threats or promises of reward having been made to me. Investigator <u>BACI</u> is writing/typing this statement for me at my request. This marines anlight an a a sound m pn evan guve 1 uesla Den no

sise as to help someone else who was taking the test. While I was suspicious, tell anyone about the call with O'discussed it with new born 50 out the Time. frecent NRC investigation (Sept. 1981). The mestion clivas asked was a relatively simple The which is stressed in the Company Train ing Program. It is a common enough question which Il feel most operators could answer I recall that the callen voice was familias to I could not then and cannot now put a me to it. No one approached me attenuards to discuss the call nor did cl make any effort to lind out who the coller was. I may have interred from the question that an operator had made the call but aldo not knowth In sure. I also do not know that the calles was asking the question for anything but I did not discuss this matter during my last interview with the NRC (9/23/81) because the investigator had directed his questions to heating on inregularities on the april 1981 NRC exams. I cep he shad noted me also ests, I would have told him about the call. Mr. Baci asked me if I was aware of any cheating on any of the exams - company contractor So RC - and d-igh im that asil from the people who were tes 30, cl have no aknow ledge of cheating here at TMI. I toll hem. that a have heard runnars concerning cheating even since I began working in 1977, but that I cannot put name to the rumaro. The rumars inclued "crib" shoets

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 3 handwritten/type pages. I have made and initialed any necessary corrections and have signed my name in ink in the margin of each page. This statement is the truth to the best of my knowledge and belief. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on $\frac{10/10/81}{date}$ at $\frac{10.24}{time}$.

INTERVIEWEE WW	20#
Subscribed and sworn to before me at 1025	this the day of <u>Cetise</u> , 19 <u>81</u> .
INVESTIGATOR: NAME;	San 1025
MITNESS: Edward C. Hilly NAME:	w 1026

STATEMENT

Date:

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I. FF ______, hereby make the following voluntary statement to FHLADE C. GILBERT who has identified himself to me as an Investigator with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I make this statement freely with no threats or promises of reward having been made to me. Investigator <u>GILRERT</u> is writing/typing this statement for me at my request. cont Luna 190 ar 11 we Ma eno QUE mo

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rege 2 santil a T. MA. HUKILL that at +d of <u>5</u> conned did not 1 mulum h 733 n not slinne insuerc ESH. asking pinc's inst and Keen 23 intes , m ans om c min terre him surprised -was ninc 91 and the set of the second ··· am int whong int in drus -) that-01 Know - wh 4 was ERO eramina J uns t 0 Ó exams in Inimi Anni STR Kina - L D D D D D have 0 00 colles st enona bour our an relas 25 clearning where we were taking the wam. and an ma prove a make , -

Page 3 I have no recullection of how the question of S was proved to me or hourd I responded to it. However, I do man what what we question asked me appeared on the test i was taking the dry land i was inidently sure of the anques since I did provide upst considered the proper assures is do not inhine I would recognize the question if I had an maturity to while the NRC Beland SEC reminations which I trak, Also, as I previous of the person who asked me the auestion. entire incident was so brief anto insignifican to me it the time that I have completell pratter the details since it orcurred fores fire months ago, apter my discussion with the AUKILL & Incalifed how important idea details would be I have tried to reconstruct the incident in my mind Ind y can't remember additional factor & realizes that my institute to recall who the individual was In who I the question consisted of is very important, but if an simply unable to leither of these parts. NEALD 12 can only explain that since I attached no significance to the incident it the time and did I mbt the I had done anything wrong, I had no reason to commit this infortration to my memory. I was aware loj the recent JURC investigation concerning cheating on examinations at Three Hile Island while resulted terminations of two employees. However, since cheating, & did not think about this incident and, accordingly, I did not previously -----

Fage 4 Lthe NRS of S I now recounter that in today's wight what considered instandiant at the Itime I and important mont star era & company and the MEC home respects. 1 have & lest that been entrapped. Bu 9 1 consider 1 meron 21 112 inciden innorant as a significant situation have local still do no reported in me. santicipated believe & cheated on chesting la answering My actions may question. 1 thon my compression to Vmin co-wor and that "terre event." Two and a very classknit group and well strive to help each lother. This Jurds my attitude of the ensured that question. someone would have "he in my she to realize how & left at - ile time. I a cannot offen exploration as to wh thing wrong had occurred of time tabling with Ma HUKILL and Investiga GILRERT Y and BACI & now realize th not have answered an examination austion during the examination. J will no do not under my 1 this again. N austimo characta integrit jeopandized. I now the in an infatt chesting, 11 Pont can recall who the individu approached me at the coppe stand during internation available to -O NRC 1 apter discussing this information with HUKILL, I also tod my supportion, EE

130 5 AT - 2 ---5 no- In in m At am MUT M + Concinna 0 alme of my knowledge and belief. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on ______at _____at _____at time date INTERVIEWEE: NAME : Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 19__, at INVESTIGATOR: NAME :

WITNESS:

NAME:

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Three Mile Island 10/22/81

I, FF, here by make the following voluntary statement to Edward C. G. Ibert she has identified himself to me as an investigator with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I make this statement feely with no threats a promises of reward having been made to me.

This datement contains information which I "/22/2" orally provided providered to Investigator Gilbert and Senior Investigator Peter E. Basi on October 19,20 1981 at the URC office at three Wile Island.

I am Sor Wet-Ed/GPU and have been employed with Wet-Ed/GPU pince June 1974. I am a licensed penior seafor operator (seo) for Oast 1 at three side Island. In Apil 1981 I took and pessed both the seafor operator (eo) and renior seafor operator (eo) examinations which were administered by the URC. I believe I took there exams on the first two doups and I sat is the non-smoking soom. I also took the RO and SRO make exams Page 2 of 7

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which were given in early spirit 1981.

Two weeks ago this Wednesday (October 7, 1981) Mr. Hukill, Derector TMI-1, had a private discussion with me at his request During this conversation Mr. Hukill asked me two questions. He asked me if I had aver cheated a an examination , to which I answered "No." He then asked me if I knew of any ... I'm Not certain of the craet wording of the question now", however, I responded by paying that while I was taking the DRC exam in April 1981, someone asked me a question date at the coffee sland, and I answered the question. I pointed out to ur Hukill that at the Time this occurred, I realized it was improper on my part but I do not truck it was significant enough to constitute a cheating incident. It was a spontaneous meiclent which was not premeditated. By this I mean we had not planned to meet at the coffee stand and I answered the individuals question automatically, since we are always asking each other questions prior to examinations

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and at other times just to keep current and fully informed to perform one jobs affectively. Mr. Hickill appeared very concerned when I told him about this and I was purprised that he considered this to Le puet a perious incident.

I do not know which of the two durys that this incident occurred and I do not know whether I was taking the RO or SRO examination at the time I told Mr. Hukill I can not recall who asked me the LL L question, what the question was or what my answer consisted of. I believe it was during the NRC exams rather than the mock exams which were administered earlies in the most month of April 1981. Since I was in the non-probing classroom, the other individual must have been in the smoking elassoom since only one person was allowed out of a room at a time No one else was precent at the coffee shand when this brief exchange between us occurred. This was not a prolonged discussion between us. It lasted only long enough for us to pour our two cups of

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coffee and then we each reduced to our respective class sooms where we were taking the exam. I have no recollection of how the question was posed to me or how I responded to it. However I assume that the question aded me appeared on the test I was taking that day. I do not recognize The question eventhough I have reviewed the DRC RO and SRO examinations which T took. Hso, as I previously told us Hukill, I cannot recall the identify of the person who asked me the question. The entire meident was so brief and insignificant to we at the time that I have completely forgother the details since it occurred over five months ago. After my discuisions with mr Hukill, I realized how important these details would be. I have the to reconstruct the medent in my mind but I can't remember additional facto. I realize that my materlity to recall who the radividual was a does not reflect favorably on me. I am pimply unable to recall either of these facts. I can only explain that

10/22/8/

F F

River I attached no significance to the incident at the time, I had no reason to commit this information to my memory.

I was aware of the recent URC investigation concerning cheating on examinations at Three Hile Island which resulted in the terminations of two employees. However, since I still did not believe my actions constituted a cleating incident, I did not think about this incident and accordingly, I did not previously bridgest to the allestion of the company or the DRC.

I NOW recognize that in today's light, what I considered insignificant at the Time is now very periods and important to both the company and the NRC. In some respects, I feal that I have been extrapped by my own varveté. By this I mean that what I considered a very insocent micident is interpreted by others as a pignificant pitiation which phould have been

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reported by me. My openhameous action may have resulted from comparison for my co-worker. We were a very close kind group. This was my attitude at the time I answered the question and I cannot offer any further explanation as to why I did not feel that it was pignificant enough at the time to report.

After talking with Mr. Hukill and Investigators Gilbert and Back I realize that what occurred can be classified as a checting incident. I definitely will not participate in this again. I do not need to have my personal character or integrity questioned or peopardized. If I can recall who the individual was who approached me at the coffee stand during the examination, I will make this information available to the NRC.

After discussing this information with Mr. Hukill, I also told my paperivisor, EE and my family what had occurred.

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I wish to point out that I have never cheated on a company, contractor or DRC administered examination by receiving, utilizing or soliciting any upormation during the examination from anyone elso a from "cirl oheats". Further, except, as I have stated above, I have never aided on facilitated cheating by others in any of the examinations, nor do I know of any other inciduats.

I have read the foregoing statement, written by me, consisting of seven (7) pages. I have made and insticled IT and meessary corrections and have signed my name in mk in the margin of each page.

This platement is the Truth to the best of my knowledge and belief. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on October 32, 1981 at 1220 hrs.

· FF - 10/22/81

bulacited and more to before me this as day of october 1981 at Three Hild Island. INVESTIGATOR: Eduard C. Sillert, Investigator, NRC WITNESS: Selen & Selen, Investigator, NRC 10/22/81 1223 1