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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Agency: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office Of Investigations

Title: Investigative Interview of:
Ronald Ressler
(Closed)

Docket No.

LOCATION: Indiana, Pennsylvania

DATE: Tuesday, December 8, 1992

PAGES 1 - 22

Information in this record was deleted
in accordance with the Freedom of Information
Act, exemptions 6
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ADDENDUM/ERRATA SHEET

Page Line Correction and Reason for Correction

I reviewed this statements
and had no changes to make

Page _____ Date 4/17/93 Signature *Ronald J. Perry*

P R O C E E D I N G S

[3:07 p.m.]

1
2
3 MS. JONES: My name is Cynthia Jones, again. It
4 is now 3:07 on December 8th. I am the Section Leader in the
5 Programmatic Safety Section in our Division of Industrial
6 Nuclear Medical Safety in our Washington office, of the
7 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which is actually located in
8 Rockville, Maryland.

9 We have a couple of people with us. What I would
10 like you to do is just to state your name -- will start with
11 Ron -- and your title here, and I will go on and explain
12 what the IIT is all about.

13 MR. LLOYD: Yes. My name is Ron Lloyd, also with
14 the Incident Investigation Team, out of the Rockville
15 office.

16 THE INTERVIEWEE: I am Ron Ressler, maintenance
17 supervisor here at Scenery Hill Manor.

18 MS. JONES: Could you spell your last name, too?

19 THE INTERVIEWEE: R E S S L E R.

20 MS. JONES: Thanks. What I mentioned before is
21 that I work for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and they
22 have established what we call an Incident Investigation
23 Team. It is the highest level of team that is formed when
24 there is an incident of a very serious nature, which this
25 is.

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1 One of the purposes of the incident investigation
2 team is to establish what happened, identify any probable
3 causes or mistakes that people made along the way and to
4 provide any appropriate feedback, as necessary, to in this
5 case the licensee or the manufacturer of the device.

6 As I mentioned before, the reason for conducting
7 the interview is to obtain information and facts regarding
8 the incident we are looking into and to contact people, such
9 as yourself, who were directly involved with the material as
10 it made its way through the different paths.

11 One purpose of transcribing the interview is to
12 aid us later in developing a factual record and be able to
13 look at that factual record when we need to and minimize any
14 amount of notetaking that we have to take during the
15 interview.

16 As I mentioned earlier, there will be transcripts
17 available and what I am handing you now is Exhibit 3.1 and
18 you can keep that.

19 [Handing document to Interviewee.]

20 MS. JONES: I will put a phone number of the Best
21 Western where we are staying and you can come over in about
22 24 hours -- give us a call first -- and the contact's name
23 is Marcia K. I will write down the phone number for you.

24 That [indicating] explains what the transcripts
25 are, how they will be available and if you have an

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1 opportunity -- or if you feel the need to make any changes
2 or clarify any statements that you made today, you can
3 certainly go ahead and do that and we will include those
4 statements as part of the transcript.

5 The transcript will be available in two locations,
6 one is at the NRC Public Document Room in Washington, D.C.,
7 and the other one is our Region 1 Office, which is in King
8 of Prussia, Pennsylvania, outside of Philadelphia.

9 If you want, when it is available in the public
10 document room, if you request you can have a copy of the
11 transcript provided to you. In addition, the IIT will be,
12 within the next 45 days, putting together all these facts
13 from all the people that we have interviewed and talked with
14 and be writing a report. That will be available in about 45
15 days.

16 So that will be a final report.

17 One thing, if you could just do for us is to give
18 us an idea of what your normal duties are here at the
19 nursing home. What would a normal day consist of, and what
20 are your responsibilities?

21 THE INTERVIEWEE: We do all the repairs if
22 anything breaks down. We haul our water in. Snow removal,
23 grass cutting in the summer. Pulling posies out in the
24 summer. Stuff like that. Buff floors. We repair about
25 anything -- you know, maintaining stuff. Clean the fan

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1 vents; practically anything to do with maintenance, we do.

2 MS. JONES: Are you the only maintenance
3 personnel?

4 THE INTERVIEWEE: No, me and another guy.

5 MS. JONES: Do you, or do you both have
6 responsibility for what was called red bag waste?

7 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

8 MS. JONES: You both do?

9 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes. We take turns taking it
10 out.

11 MS. JONES: For the week of the 14th of November,
12 which started on Monday, is there any way to tell who would
13 have taken out the trash of the red bag waste that week?

14 THE INTERVIEWEE: Well, we both did but I took it
15 out that morning that I was told to wait by [REDACTED],
16 when they found something, I guess.

17 MS. JONES: I don't know what happened.

18 THE INTERVIEWEE: We usually pick up between 8 and
19 8:30.

20 MS. JONES: In the morning?

21 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes. She told me to leave it
22 sit, don't pick it up yet. Then I didn't really know what
23 was involved, but I didn't take it out until she told me it
24 was okay.

25 MS. JONES: When would that have been?

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1 THE INTERVIEWEE: I think it was Wednesday or
2 Thursday; I ain't sure.

3 MS. JONES: Where did it stay from --

4 THE INTERVIEWEE: It stayed in the can in the
5 hopper room.

6 MS. JONES: Okay. That is that utility room that
7 is in the --

8 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

9 MS. JONES: In a normal day's worth of waste, who
10 goes into the hopper room? Who puts in waste in there? Is
11 that you, or the nurses?

12 THE INTERVIEWEE: The nurses do it when they do
13 their med's, and stuff, their changings. We just take it up
14 when they are done in the morning and then in the afternoon
15 before we leave. We throw it in the bin out here, the
16 wasteroom -- the little generator room.

17 MS. JONES: Right. The back side of the
18 recreation room?

19 THE INTERVIEWEE: Right.

20 MS. JONES: So it gets picked up twice a day?

21 THE INTERVIEWEE: Twice a day.

22 MS. JONES: And that is about -- what time in the
23 morning, again?

24 THE INTERVIEWEE: We average between 8 and 8:30 in
25 the morning and 2:30 to 3:30, before we leave.

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1 MS. JONES: Right about now?

2 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

3 MS. JONES: Is it filled in the morning when you
4 go in there?

5 THE INTERVIEWEE: Not really. Maybe half a can.
6 The can is only a three-gallon container. We put a fresh
7 bag in.

8 MS. JONES: When you go in there in the morning to
9 pick it up, what do you do with the bag?

10 THE INTERVIEWEE: We wear rubber gloves and we
11 take it up, put the new bag in, and take it straight out to
12 that little room outside. We don't set the bag down on the
13 floor, or nothing. We just take it straight out.

14 MS. JONES: Do you have to seal it with tape, or
15 do you just --

16 THE INTERVIEWEE: We just knots in the bag.

17 MS. JONES: Tie the knot. Then when you put it
18 outside in that room outside, maybe you can show me later -
19 -Again, do you put it in a box, or do you just put it on the
20 floor?

21 THE INTERVIEWEE: No, we have boxes made up with
22 bags, big liners. We just keep it in there until the box is
23 filled and then we seal it up, tape it up, and mark on it
24 when we started the box and when we ended it.

25 MS. JONES: Okay. How long does it take for you

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1 to get a full box? What size is the box? On the average.

2 THE INTERVIEWEE: When they pick it up, it usually
3 weighs anywhere from 30 to 40 pounds, sometimes -- maybe
4 less. That is about a week.

5 MS. JONES: A week's worth in one box?

6 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

7 MS. JONES: How often does -- the vendor that
8 picks it up is BFI?

9 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes. On the average, about
10 three weeks they came because we only have like three or
11 four boxes they send back.

12 MS. JONES: Okay. Do they come on a special day?

13 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes, usually on Wednesdays --
14 maybe Tuesdays sometimes. It depends on their schedule,
15 when they are notified.

16 MS. JONES: Do they have a set contract, do you
17 know, with this facility?

18 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I am pretty sure they do.

19 MS. JONES: Or, do you have to call them when the
20 room gets filled?

21 THE INTERVIEWEE: We usually call them when it is
22 full. When we have isolation cases, then it gets full
23 quick.

24 MS. JONES: How often would that happen, would you
25 get isolation?

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1 THE INTERVIEWEE: That is not very often at all.

2 MS. JONES: Okay. Who usually calls BFI to come
3 pick up the waste?

4 THE INTERVIEWEE: Usually Ed or the secretary.

5 MS. JONES: Do they know to call on a certain day?

6 THE INTERVIEWEE: Well, we tell them we have a few
7 boxes back there full. We let them know.

8 MS. JONES: And then they come?

9 THE INTERVIEWEE: Then they come and take care of
10 it.

11 MS. JONES: What happens when they show up here?
12 Where do they go and who do they talk to?

13 THE INTERVIEWEE: Me. I sign for it when they
14 pick up and drop us off new boxes and bags.

15 MS. JONES: Do they drive around the back?

16 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes, they drive around and they
17 back right into the -- they back into the little building
18 there. We just carry the boxes out and put them on their
19 tailgate of the truck and they weigh them.

20 MS. JONES: Do they have a scale with them?

21 THE INTERVIEWEE: Oh, yes. They write everything
22 down on a paper and I look at it and sign it.

23 MS. JONES: I have a copy, and you can correct me
24 -- This [indicating] happens to be the shipment in question.

25 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

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1 MS. JONES: There is a question about the date on
2 this one in particular. Ed has a better copy, but it was
3 written like a third copy so it is hard to read. I had
4 filled in darker, kind of followed your name here
5 [indicating], but the date that was written on that Ed could
6 read appeared to be the 23rd, which was a Monday.

7 Do you think it is possible that the shipment
8 could have been picked up on Monday?

9 THE INTERVIEWEE: It could have been -- very
10 possible. Sometimes on a day -- with our schedule, we work
11 every other weekend, off on Friday, and then work the
12 weekend, then we are off Tuesday the following week. We do
13 get our days mixed up.

14 MS. JONES: If BFI had a record that showed that
15 it was on the 25th, which was a Wednesday, is it possible
16 that maybe you just got the date mixed upon here?

17 THE INTERVIEWEE: No, he dates it.

18 MS. JONES: The driver dates it? So that is not
19 -- that wouldn't be you?

20 THE INTERVIEWEE: No. I don't date it.

21 MS. JONES: What part of this form would you fill
22 out?

23 THE INTERVIEWEE: Right here [indicating]. I
24 print my name and then sign it.

25 MS. JONES: Okay.

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1 THE INTERVIEWEE: They always dated it.

2 MS. JONES: So they date it. In this case, it was
3 whoever the driver was -- [REDACTED]

4 THE INTERVIEWEE: Right.

5 MS. JONES: Does he normally come and pick up the
6 waste?

7 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes. He is a pretty steady
8 driver.

9 MS. JONES: Do you know what kind of truck he
10 comes in?

11 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes, it is a big, straight
12 truck.

13 MS. JONES: When he comes here, can you tell if
14 -- Have you ever looked in the back of his truck? Is there
15 a lot of boxes already in, or it is an empty truck?

16 THE INTERVIEWEE: No, there are some boxes up
17 front -- not a lot.

18 MS. JONES: If you had to say how deep it was --

19 THE INTERVIEWEE: About a third of the truck.
20 Maybe a row or two of boxes; that is it.

21 MS. JONES: Okay.

22 THE INTERVIEWEE: That is all I ever noticed.

23 MS. JONES: Do you know if [REDACTED], who is
24 the driver for BFI, is he the one who normally comes here?

25 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

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1 MS. JONES: Do you know if he has a radiation
2 instrument with him? Or, has he ever used one on boxes that
3 he gets from here?

4 THE INTERVIEWEE: I have never seen him use it.

5 MS. JONES: Do you know if he has one?

6 THE INTERVIEWEE: I don't know.

7 MS. JONES: Have you ever seen the cab of his
8 truck?

9 THE INTERVIEWEE: No, we seal the boxes up and
10 take them to the tailgate, set them up, he weighs them and
11 writes it down and I sign them.

12 MS. JONES: How long would that take?

13 THE INTERVIEWEE: Ten or 15 minutes. On the days
14 -- It probably was a Monday. but like I said, we get our
15 days mixed up --

16 MS. JONES: That is certainly easily enough to do
17 when you have a lot to do.

18 How often do you have to go out to the back
19 storage room at all? Would anyone else have access to that
20 room?

21 THE INTERVIEWEE: Well, if we have a problem up
22 here, if we have to use the generator, the generator is in
23 that room. So if you ever go in there, it would be right in
24 there with the box.

25 MS. JONES: Do you know if anyone --

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1 THE INTERVIEWEE: No.

2 MS. JONES: Have you had a problem recently to
3 need the generator?

4 THE INTERVIEWEE: No, not for a while.

5 MS. JONES: So not probably within the last month?

6 THE INTERVIEWEE: No. Usually when there is a
7 problem with the generator, we are called in.

8 MR. LLOYD: Other than yourself, who would be
9 going into that room?

10 THE INTERVIEWEE: My assistant, Rob.

11 MR. LLOYD: What would be the reason that he would
12 go in there?

13 THE INTERVIEWEE: Just to drop off waste.

14 MR. LLOYD: So he would only be in there a very
15 short period of time -- just to drop waste off?

16 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes, that and we do -- We have a
17 weekly check on the generator. We just take it outside,
18 start it, make sure it is gassed and full and throw it back
19 in there.

20 MS. JONES: Okay. On that morning, you normally
21 would have taken the red bag waste out of that utility room,
22 you mentioned that [REDACTED], who is one of the nurses
23 here, said not to.

24 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes, she told me to wait a
25 while.

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1 MS. JONES: Did she say why?

2 THE INTERVIEWEE: I understood she just -- a piece
3 of catheter, or something. I am not sure. She would let me
4 know when to take it out.

5 MS. JONES: Do you know if she had to contact a
6 doctor to get his directions, or did she know --

7 THE INTERVIEWEE: I don't know. I didn't ask.
8 Okay, I will just get it later.

9 MS. JONES: Did she find you later and tell you
10 when to pick it up?

11 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes, he come and got me and told
12 me to go ahead and dispose of it.

13 MS. JONES: About what time was that?

14 THE INTERVIEWEE: I would say that was about an
15 hour -- before break. About an hour later.

16 MS. JONES: So that was --

17 THE INTERVIEWEE: Around 9, maybe 9:30.

18 MS. JONES: It was still in the morning?

19 THE INTERVIEWEE: Oh, yes.

20 MS. JONES: It didn't stay there all day?

21 THE INTERVIEWEE: No, . . . As a matter of fact, it
22 was out before I went on break.

23 MS. JONES: Okay. What did you do with the bag
24 then when you were ready to take it out?

25 THE INTERVIEWEE: I took it straight to --

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1 MS. JONES: To that room?

2 THE INTERVIEWEE: To that bin.

3 MS. JONES: Was there a box already in the back
4 room that had started to be filled?

5 THE INTERVIEWEE: Right.

6 MS. JONES: Did you just put it -- What did you do
7 with the bag then?

8 THE INTERVIEWEE: Just dropped it in the box.

9 MS. JONES: Do you remember, by any chance, if the
10 box was half filled with stuff, or not quite filled?

11 THE INTERVIEWEE: It was about a third.

12 MS. JONES: Okay. Then, later on that day, you
13 had more waste?

14 THE INTERVIEWEE: One more bag before we went
15 home.

16 MS. JONES: Okay, and you put that on top. How
17 long did it take you to fill up that box? This indicates
18 that three boxes were picked up for shipment [indicating].

19 THE INTERVIEWEE: You see, I don't know if Rob
20 sealed that box. I was off the weekend. With hunting
21 season and all, we were switching days around.

22 MS. JONES: If you went into the room, do you have
23 an order where you put boxes, first, second and third that
24 you filled up?

25 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

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1 MS. JONES: Where would the first box be if it was
2 filled? Would it be toward the rec room?

3 THE INTERVIEWEE: It would be on like towards 17
4 on that corner. When we fill another one, we just it on top
5 of that one. The third one, probably be the one we are
6 working on now, it would be right beside of it.

7 MS. JONES: Okay. Was this one on the floor that
8 you were working on?

9 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

10 MS. JONES: Do you remember if there was any other
11 boxes already filled up?

12 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I believe there was one. I
13 am pretty sure there was one.

14 MS. JONES: And then it would have got picked up
15 the next week, before Thanksgiving.

16 THE INTERVIEWEE: Right. I think there was one
17 more besides this.

18 MS. JONES: So in a month's time, about how many
19 boxes do you have?

20 THE INTERVIEWEE: Usually three.

21 MS. JONES: Are they those tall boxes? You don't
22 ever use the smaller ones?

23 THE INTERVIEWEE: No.

24 MR. LLOYD: The bigger box?

25 MS. JONES: The 31 x 21 x 21?

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1 THE INTERVIEWEE: There are two or three to pick
2 up. Like I said, isolation -- maybe four. If we have an
3 isolation unit set up.

4 MS. JONES: Okay. Do you ever help BFI load any
5 of the boxes onto the truck?

6 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes, sometimes we left them up
7 to the tailgate for them. He has a scale up on the bed. He
8 is up there putting them on scale, weighing them and he
9 takes them straight up to the front.

10 MS. JONES: Has the driver ever mentioned having
11 radioactive packages before, or having any problem with
12 packages?

13 THE INTERVIEWEE: No.

14 MR. LLOYD: Why does he weigh the packages?

15 THE INTERVIEWEE: To see how much weight is in
16 them.

17 MR. LLOYD: You don't get charged by the pound?

18 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes, there is charge. I am not
19 sure about that but I think there is a charge for the
20 poundage. That is what I kind of figured -- that is
21 probably how they make out, they charge by the pound. I
22 don't know.

23 MS. JONES: Back to the utility room, the room
24 that holds the waste, if you walked in there at 8:30 in the
25 morning and it was really only a couple of small bags in

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1 there, would you not put it back in the storage room, or
2 would you --

3 THE INTERVIEWEE: No, you take it out.

4 MS. JONES: Even if it has a little bit?

5 THE INTERVIEWEE: We take it out.

6 MS. JONES: Okay.

7 THE INTERVIEWEE: And we always put afresh bag in.

8 MS. JONES: Is that a policy here, or just --

9 THE INTERVIEWEE: It is a policy me and my buddy
10 have. We get it out of there. Never told to let it go from
11 morning to afternoon. We do change it twice a day.

12 MR. LLOYD: Did you remove it from that room the
13 same day as the pick up?

14 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

15 MS. JONES: What do you mean?

16 THE INTERVIEWEE: Do you mean when they picked the
17 waste up?

18 MR. LLOYD: Yes. It went from Room 4 into the
19 hopper room and it stayed there for how long before you
20 removed it from there and put it out to the storage room in
21 the back?

22 THE INTERVIEWEE: I don't get you there.

23 MR. LLOYD: Somebody moved it -- I assume the
24 nurses, right? Moved it from there to the hopper room. You
25 said you picked up that package from the hopper room the

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1 same day as the individual came to pick it up from the
2 storage room.

3 THE INTERVIEWEE: No.

4 MS. JONES: No, I thought you meant -- two
5 questions. One was when the nurse put it in the interim
6 room, when did you pick it up and put it back in the storage
7 facility?

8 THE INTERVIEWEE: After she told me it was okay.

9 MS. JONES: That was the same day -- that was that
10 morning at --

11 MR. LLOYD: That is what I was trying to --

12 MS. JONES: Right before your --

13 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes, before my break.

14 MS. JONES: Okay. And your question was when the
15 BFI truck, was it the same day?

16 MR. LLOYD: Correct.

17 THE INTERVIEWEE: I don't know if it was the same
18 day or not. Really, we didn't even know what was going on
19 with that room there, what was found or anything.

20 MS. JONES: We were wondering when you put it back
21 in that room that day; did you have the truck come from BFI
22 and pick it up?

23 THE INTERVIEWEE: I can't recall if it is the same
24 day or not.

25 MS. JONES: Who else would have a key to the

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1 storage room if they needed to get in?

2 THE INTERVIEWEE: We have a key in the key box and
3 we have a key in the maintenance shop. They are the only
4 two keys that I know of.

5 MS. JONES: Do you know of any reason why anyone
6 would have to go in there?

7 THE INTERVIEWEE: No. Except when they have to
8 use the generator. They will call me for that.

9 MS. JONES: Now there is a room on the back side
10 of --is that the generator room? It seems like there are
11 two rooms back to back.

12 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes, that is where the
13 transformer and stuff are for the building.

14 MS. JONES: Does anybody use the transformers or
15 have to go in there?

16 THE INTERVIEWEE: No, just the electric company
17 when they come out and make their meter reading.

18 MS. JONES: Would there have been any reason for
19 anyone to park outside near that area, rather than using any
20 of the two parking lots you have?

21 THE INTERVIEWEE: No. Usually salesmen might, for
22 the kitchen stuff -- might pull in there and park. Not an
23 all day thing.

24 MS. JONES: If they were parked out there, how
25 long would they be out there for?

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1 THE INTERVIEWEE: Maybe 10 or 15 minutes; just
2 enough to get an order.

3 MS. JONES: Real short.

4 THE INTERVIEWEE: Usually if somebody is parked
5 there, we ask them to move. We have trucks coming for
6 delivery and stuff. It would crowd that corner.

7 MS. JONES: So delivery trucks would come in.
8 What kind of delivery trucks and how often would they come?

9 THE INTERVIEWEE: They come in straight trucks,
10 they come in small trailers. We get a couple of big semi's
11 in here.

12 MS. JONES: For food or supplies?

13 THE INTERVIEWEE: Food, our maintenance products;
14 you know, laundry material and stuff like that, or building
15 material. We had a semi deliver door frames and stuff.

16 MS. JONES: Is there any way, that you have a list
17 or a record of who would have delivered things from the 19th
18 of November until the 23rd or 25th, when it was picked up.

19 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes, Ed would. We sign for
20 everything that comes in -- you know, pick ups and anything
21 we get we turn those slips into the secretary.

22 MS. JONES: We can ask Ed for that.

23 Do you have any questions?

24 THE INTERVIEWEE: No. Like I said, on them days
25 -- we might have the days mixed up on the pick up, but as

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1 far as the bag goes, Sara told me not to pick it up. I
2 figured there was something up, but I didn't ask. She told
3 me it was okay to take, it took it out and disposed of it.

4 MS. JONES: Sara is on the day shift?

5 THE INTERVIEWEE: Yes. She was charge nurse that
6 day.

7 MS. JONES: So I will probably check with her
8 tomorrow -- just to chat with her.

9 I think that is it. That will be the close of the
10 interview. It is now 3:30.

11 [Whereupon, at 3:30 p.m., the interview was
12 concluded.]

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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

In the Matter of:

NAME OF PROCEEDING: Ronald Ressler

DOCKET NUMBER:

PLACE OF PROCEEDING: Indiana, PA

were held as herein appears, and that this is the
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