

23 September 1981

I, Paul F. Collins, hereby make the following voluntary statement to Mr. William J. Ward 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. Mr Ward is typing this statement with my permission.

I am employed as Chief of the Operator Licensing Branch, USNRC. I would like to describe some of the arrangements that were made in advance for the operator reactor operator and senior reactor operator (RO/SRO) examinations that we gave at Three Mile Island during the period April 21-24, 1981.

I recall at least one conference call in which I participated along with one of my section leadres, Bruce Wilson, and licensee officials. The purpose of this call was to obtain our permission to offer ~~two~~ two sessions of each exam in order to accomodate the licensee's operational requirements in light of the large number of examinees. This was a reasonable request and I granted it. Sometime subsequent to this call, I had the opportunity to review the two versions of the examinations that we planned to use. I decided that the two versions were sufficiently similar that it would be imprudent to allow anyone who was scheduled to take the "B" exam to participate in the review of the "A" examination. This decsion set into motion a series of events which apparently led to the ~~extred-~~ increased amount of time needed to review all four examinations on the last two days (April 23 and 24).

By way of explanation, it is our practice everytime that we give the ~~KNYXRE~~ RO/SRO examinsations to have one or more licensee representatives go over the examination questions and answer sheet with the NRC examiner to ensure that none of the questions or the model answers are unduly ambiguous, or contradict site specific practices. This review takes place afeer the testing has started so

there is no possibility of compromising the examination. This interactive review allows us to interrupt the exam in progress and pass new instructions to the applicants when warranted such as, "strike question 11" or to provide amplification of some questions. The key point is that this is an integral part of our testing program. *APPROXIMATELY, WITH ONE EXAMINATION IS BEING HELD EACH DAY.*

My decision to limit the participation in the review process at TMI led to the licensee appointing three persons to assist in this review who were not licensed operators, and who were not as technically sharp as those who otherwise would have been involved. As a result of this, Bruce Wilson apparently felt the need to go over the "A" as well as the "B" exams with more qualified personnel, among them Mike Ross, the Manager of Operations at TMI 1. This in turn resulted in an extraordinary length of time on April 23 and 24 for this dual review of the two sets of exams. For practical intents and purposes, it resulted in Bruce Wilson being absent from the exam sessions that he was proctoring on both days.

Although my suspicions were first aroused when I noted the extraordinary length of time the reviews took, I later recalled the information that I have provided above that in my view plausibly explains it, ~~I do not believe that any licensee employee attempted to lure us from the exam rooms,~~ and I feel that any absences were ^{in part} a result of our own requirementst.

I have read the foregoing statement consisting of 2 typewritten/handwritten pages. I have made any necessary corrections and have initialed them. I signed my name 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 _____ at _____.

[Handwritten signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23 day of September, 1988 at _____.

WITNESSED:

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]
_____ *WBJ*

ENCLOSURE 4