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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the matter of:

TEXAS UTILITIES ELECTRIC COMPANY, et al

(Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station, Units 1 & 2)

Docket No.50-445-2 50-446-2

Deposition of: Robert R. Taylor

Location: Glen Rose, Texas

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY & LICENSING BOARD

In the matter of:

TEXAS UTILITIES ELECTRIC

COMPANY, et al.

Company, et al.

Company, et al.

Station, Units 1 and 2)

TEXAS UTILITIES ELECTRIC

Docket Nos. 50-445

Station, Units 1 and 2)

Glen Rose Motor Inn Glen Rose, Texas

July 17 , 1984

Deposition of: ROBERT R. TAYLOR

called by examination by counsel for Intervenors

taken before Suzanne Young, Court Reporter,

beginning at 9:20 a.m., pursuant to agreement.

APPEARANCES: For the Applicants Texas Utilities Electric Company, et al.: 3 NICHOLAS S. REYNOLDS, ESQUIRE 4 Bishop, Liberman, Cook, Purcell & Reynolds 1200 Seventeenth Street, Northwest 5 Washington, D.C. 20036 For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff: 7 GEARY S. MIZUNO, ESQUIRE Office of the Executive Legal Director 8 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555 For the Intervenor Citizens Association for Sound 10 Energy: 11 ANTHONY Z. ROISMAN, ESQUIRE Executive Director 12 Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, P.C. 2000 P Street, Northwest, Suite 611 13 Washington, D.C. 20036 For the State of Texas: 15 RENEA HICKS, ESQUIRE Assistant Attorney General 16 411 West Thirteenth Street Austin, Texas 78701 17 18 19 20 21 23 24

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INDEX 2 WITNESS: EXAMINATION BY: 3 ROBERT TAYLOR MR. HICKS: 53,505 53,542 MR. REYNOLDS: 4 MR. MIZUNO: 53,548 53,548 MR. HICKS: 5 MR. MIZUNO: 53,550 53,551 MR. HICKS: MR. REYNOLDS: 53,552 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 No Exhibits. 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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PROCEEDINGS

MR. MIZUNO: My name is Geary S. Mizuno, and I am the counsel for the NRC Staff.

MR. ROISMAN: My name is Anthony Roisman, and I'm counsel for the Intervenor, CASE.

MR. REYNOLDS: Nicholas Reynolds, counsel for Texas Utilities Generating Company.

MR. HICKS: Renea Hicks. I'm counsel for the State of Texas.

MR. ROISMAN: We have asked the NRC Staff to produce, and they have agreed to produce for this deposition this morning, Mr. Taylor, who is a former resident inspector at the Comanche Peak plant.

CASE, at this time, is waiving its direct testimony for the time being.

Thank you.

(Discussion off the record.)

MR. ROISMAN: I'm sorry. I should say waiving the direct examination.

MR. MIZUNO: Mr. Taylor is appearing today in this evidentiary deposition pursuant to 10 CFR Section 2.720(h)(2)i.

Mr. Taylor was identified in CASE's June 27, 1984

letter to Leonard W. Belter, who is counsel for the

Applicants in this proceeding.

The NRC Staff has agreed to voluntarily provide

Mr. Taylor for this evidentiary deposition. The scope of this deposition, as established by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, is limited to the taking of evidence and the making of discovery on harassment, intimidation, or a threatening of quality assurance/quality control personnel. With one exception, that being of Henry Stiner, allegations regarding harassment or intimidation of craft personnel have been specifically ruled by the Board to be beyond the scope of this proceeding.

In its June 27, 1984 letter, CASE identified the incidents and subject matters which it may wish to examine Mr. Taylor about. The NRC Staff does not agree with CASE that all of these incidents and subject matters are proper areas for examination in this proceeding.

The Staff has previously indicated its objection to the relevancy of some of the subject matters and reiterates that the quality assurance/quality control contention admitted by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board relates to whether or not Applicants have complied with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B in the design and construction of the Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station.

More specifically, with regard to the allegations concerning intimidation, the issue is whether there have been any incidents, actions or statements by Applicants and their subcontractors which have caused QC inspectors or other

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1 personnel within the Applicant's QA/QC organization to fail 2 to comply with the written provisions of the Applicant's 3 QA/QC program and, moreover, whether such incidents or actions 4 have become known to the Applicant's management. 5 It is the NRC Staff's position that the NRC Staff's 6 response to allegations of intimidation or harassment of 7 QA/QC personnel at Comanche Peak is outside the scope of the 8 issues in this proceeding. That is my statement. 10 I now present Mr. Taylor for his examination. 11 Whereupon, 12 ROBERT R. TAYLOR 13 was called as a witness by the NRC Staff and, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows: 15 MR. HICKS: I believe the various responses to the 16 relevancy argument have been stated several times on the 17 record, so I won't repeat them now. 18 EXAMINATION 19 BY MR. HICKS: 20 For the record, would you state your name, please. 21 My name is Robert G. Taylor. 22 Q How are you employed, Mr. Taylor? I'm employed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 23 A 24 Region IV, as a reactor inspector.

What are your duties as a reactor inspector?

I perform and assign inspections of construction. 2 0 Could you go into a little more detail on what 3 that is? 4 A The NRC has a construction inspection program, 5 documented program. It covers something like 83 areas. 6 I am assigned, along with others, to inspect those areas in accordance with those documented procedures. 7 8 Q What particular plants do you have under your 9 responsibility? 10 A I'm currently assigned to Wolf Creek Station in 11 Kansas. 12 Are you doing any work right now as to Comanche Q 13 Peak? 14 A Only relative to hearings. 15 Q When did you leave -- when did you cease having 16 responsibilities as to Comanche Peak? 17 A .I was officially reassigned January 22nd or 24th. 18 The exact date I don't recall now. It's one of those two --19 in 1984. 20 And since then, except as to testimony in matters related to the hearings, you have not had responsibilities 21 22 for Comanche Peak? 23 A I have conducted limited investigative-type 24 inspections at Comanche Peak since my reassignment, all 25 dealing with assorted issues that have come up in hearings.

Q Can you delineate what those issues are? 2 Most of them are welding issues dealing with 3 interpass temperature, weave welding, downhill welding, 4 preheat temperatures for welding. 5 Since January of '84, have you done any work at Comanche Peak in regards to quality assurance/quality control 7 program or questions of intimidation or harassment? 8 A I have not. 9 Just to make it a little easier on the reporter --10 I'm not criticizing you, but don't interrupt, because it's 11 hard for her. 12 Prior to or up until your reassignment in 13 January of '84, did you have responsibilties at Comanche Peak? 14 A I did. 15 What were those responsibilities? 16 The responsibilities were to conduct routine 17 construction inspections and conduct such investigations as 18 the Region IV office assigned to me and to develop assorted 19 testimonies for hearings. 20 What was your title? 21 I was Senior Reactor Inspector-Construction. 22 0 How long did you hold that position? 23 Under one title or another, since August 1978. 24 Under the different titles, were your duties 25 essentially the same?

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A They were indeed.

H.

Can you go into a little more detail, as to 2 what the duties of a senior reactor inspector/construction 3 are? Essentially the same as I outlined for the 5 regular construction program. It is, again, a documented inspection program assigned to the resident inspector 7 involving essentially examination of components, examination of procedures, examination of records of the plants. 8 Is there no difference between the job you 10 hold now -- I'm not talking in terms of a particular plant 11 you are assigned to, but in terms of the duties that devolve 12 upon you? 13 Essentially no differences other than in the 14 resident position. You are in a far more intimate contact 15 with the site personnel than you are if you are a non-resident. Do you actually have an office on the plant 16 17 site? I do indeed have an office on the plant site. 18 What were your normal work hours, when you 19 were the senior resident inspector? 20 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., five days a week. 21 Can you tell me where your office was? 22 It was in the east end of the construction 23 administration building. O Are there other offices in that building? 25

There are many other offices in that building. Are the other offices in that building 2 offices of the utility that is building the plant? 3 Yes, sir. A 4 And are there -- were there, when you were 0 5 working there in that position, management offices there? Yes, sir. 7 A Can you name some of the management offices that are along the hall going to your office? 9 MR. MIZUNO: Objection. What is the relevance 10 of listing the kinds of management offices that were along 11 the hall? 12 MR. HICKS: The relevance is that it has to 13 do with, I guess you might say, the gauntlet that people might 14 have to run if they walked to Mr. Taylor's office --15 MR. MIZUNO: It hasn't been established that 16 the people had to walk that hallway to get to Mr. Taylor's 17 office. 18 BY MR. FICKS: 19 Could you go ahead and answer the question? 20 I think I can. I know what you're getting at. 21 The resident office consisted, in reality, of two offices. One with my, we will say, personal office and adjacent to it, 23 and connected to it, was a small conference room. It was 24 also used by any visiting inspectors that came from the 25

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region. In the conference room there was an exterior 2 door to the building. It allowed access into those two 3 rooms without going through the rest of the building at all. Q Would the exterior door have gone north-south 5 or east-west? It went east. It was an east access door. 7 Was there another way of access to your office? A There was also an access into the same room, the conference room via the -- a small office lobby and the hallway leading into the rest of the building. 10 11 Where did that hallway lead to? 12 The hallway led -- I guess you could say in two directions. One of the directions was along the main 13 14 corridor of the building, running east and west and then 15 branching off of that was a shorter corrider running north and south. 16 17 Along the shorter corridor, running north and south, to the best of your memory, were there any management 18 19 offices of the utility there? A Mr. Hicks, if I answer your exact question, 20 I am evading what you are asking for. 21 All right. First, answer my exact question 22 and then I'll try to figure out how to keep it from being --23

management offices, to my recollection.

Along the corridors, no, there were no

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Q Were there any management offices near the corridors?

MR. MIZUNO: Objection. What do you mean by near? One mile?

BY MR. HICKS:

Q Would you like to answer the import of my question, since you better understand what it's about?

A I think I know what you're looking for and I will answer the question.

Adjacent to my office was the office of

John Merritt, who is the, I believe now, the Assistant

Project General Manager and during most of the time that I

was on the station he was Engineering & Construction Manager

for the utility.

And in the same general area was the office of Mr. Joe George, the Vice President and Project General Manager for Texas Utilities for that particular site.

Q Would people that did not come in through the exterior door that you mentioned, to the conference room, if they came in through the other door, have to pass by these particular offices?

A Yes, sir.

Q Can you think of any other management offices that they would have to pass by if they didn't come in through the exterior door, but instead came in through the interior

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A The only other one that I can think of was a period of time in which the office right outside of the management compound, for lack of a better term, was occupied by the procurement supervisor for Texas Utilities.

Q Do you know that person's name?

A It was Hicks, Dan Hicks.

Q Because I am not familiar with the plant, I will need to ask you, were these offices -- either your office or -- were these offices, either your office or the other offices, that these people would have to pass by if they came in through the interior door -- were they just doors or did they have windows into them, or were they open?

MR. MIZUNO: Objection. This line of questioning has gone on for quite a long time, regarding where Mr. Taylor's office was located. I would like counsel to explain the relevance of this line of questioning to the admitted issues in this particular proceeding.

MR. HICKS: I've already explained it.

MR. MIZUNO: I didn't hear an explanation.

MR. HICKS: Well, we can worry about it later.

MR. MIZUNO: No, I want the explanation on the

record. I will allow the answers to go on, but I want you

24 to state --

MR. HICKS: I've already stated the explanation.

1 If you have forgotten it, you can ask the court reporter 2 to read it back to you. 3 MR. MIZUNO: What is that explanation? When 4 did it occur? 5 MR. HICKS: The explanation occurred when you first objected. 7 MR. REYNOLDS: Mr. Hicks, why don't you 8 indulge him with a restatement of your position. MR. HICKS: Oh, I suppose I will, since I want to go home this afternoon. 10 This line of questioning concerns what people 11 that are coming into Mr. Taylor's office, if they came in 12 through the interior door, would have to walk by in terms of 13 management offices. 14 MR. MIZUNO: That does not respond to my 15 question. I asked you -- I understand what your line of 16 questioning is about. I asked you to connect the subject of 17 your line of questioning with the issue in the proceeding. 18 That's what I have not heard yet. 19 MR. HICKS: The connection is that it has 20 to do with possible obstacles that people may have felt to 21 coming in to report matters to Mr. Taylor. 22 BY MR. HICKS: 23 Mr. Taylor, will you go ahead and answer the 24 question now? 25

MR. MIZUNO: Before I allow Mr. Taylor to 2 answer that question, I want to make a statement that the 3 State of Texas has not shown any direct connection, or even indirect connection to the issue in this case, which I have said at the beginning of this deposition is limited to the Applicant's QA/QC program and whether there has been 7 intimidation of QC inspectors or other personnel within the QA/QC department. And now, Mr. Taylor can go on and answer the 10 question. 11 MR. HICKS: Before you answer, Mr. Taylor, 12 let me go ahead and speak to Mr. Mizuno. Mr. Mizuno, I will 13 recognize that you have a continuing objection to this particular line of questioning, as you indicated at the outset. 14 15 If you feel the necessity to preserve it at each point, then 16 I suppose you can interrupt every time I ask a question. MR. MIZUNO: No, I will not. 17 BY MR. HICKS: 18 Would you go ahead and answer the question, 19 if you can remember? 20 21 I think the question related to doors and windows? 22 23 0 Yes. 24 Mr. Merritt's door was frequently, perhaps 25 50 percent of the time, open. When it was closed, it had

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a window. If he were looking out the window, I believe he probably could have seen whoever was entering my office area.

In relation to Mr. George, his office in essence is, shall we say, backward for the purposes of the observation. His desk was not positioned where he could readily see out of his office window and see who was coming into my office, unless he made a special effort to do so

Q You mentioned one other person, I believe, that had an office along there?

A That would be Mr. Hicks. I believe he would have had great difficulty in discerning whether a party walking past his office was going to my office, or simply out the front door of the building.

Q Did he have a window?

A He had a window in his door. To clear that one up, every door belonging to the utility, exclusive of mine, has a window in it.

Q The eastern exterior door, was it marked as your door? Your office's door?

A It had a sign in the window that was the NRC official emblem.

Q And was it unlocked or kept locked?

A It was unlocked from the time I arrived in the morning until the time I departed in the evening.

2 coming into your office to come in either of the two doors, 3 the interior or the exterior doors? They were open? 4 That is correct. Q When you were working, during your normal 5 6 work hours at the plant, the resident inspector, did you travel out into the various areas of the plant regularly? 7 8 A Yes, sir, unless there was a higher priority task than doing the inspection program. I was in the buildings 9 10 some part of every day. 11 What would be your purposes, when you would go 12 out into these buildings? A Observe the progress of construction, observe 13 14 how the construction was being done, observe how the inspectors were doing their jobs, examining equipment to see if it was 15 being properly installed. 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Q But it was possible, I take it, for people

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	Q	What	would	the	observations	consist	of?
Would	you	just wat	ch peop	ole	doing work?		

A On occasion, yes; that was part of the program.

Q Would the observations be anything other than just watching?

A Oh, yes, the observations would be a detailed examination of the components as well.

Q When you would go out and make the observations, would you ever make say random visits with the people you were observing?

A On occasions, yes.

Q Would they respond to your questions or comment?

A Oh, yes; very freely.

Q How did you notify -- once you became the resident inspector how did you notify the employees at the plant site that you were thera? Did you make any special notification?

A No, sir; there was no public address system and we didn't gather up 4,000 people and put me up on a podium to announce that I am there.

Q Did you put out any announcements in the company newspaper or post any notices around the plant?

A There was a long-standing notice inviting

people with concerns to contact the region and the region's number was provided. 0 Yes, sir. called NRC Form 3? 7 Yes, sir. A 8 9 you came in 1978? 10 came to the plant. 11 12 where it was posted? 13 15 was that had that notice posted on it. 16 17 plant that had it? 18 19 20 best of your memory? 21 22 23 24 25

Was the notice posted in the plant? Was this the forerunner of I think it is And it was posted in the plant at the time A It was posted some six months before I I'm sorry. At the time you came do you know Yes, sir. There was a large bulletin board on the opposite end of the building where my office Was that the only place you know in the That's the only one I am aware of now.

What did the notice consist of, to the

MR. MIZUNO: Objection. I would like counsel to state the relationship between the line of questioning that is occurring and notice to the workers about the NRC and the issues in this proceeding.

BY MR. HICKS:

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Q Would you go ahead and answer my question?

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MR. MIZUNO: Objection. I objected. I would like to know what counsel's statement is with regard to the relationship of his line of questioning regarding notifying workers of the presence of the NRC staff and the issues in this proceeding. I think I am entitled to an answer.

I will allow Mr. Taylor to continue answering your question.

MR. HICKS: It is the same reason I have stated twice before today.

MR. MIZUNO: Your reasons earlier were with regard to a line of questioning on the office. This is not involving the office. I would just note that I have an objection. If this continues then I will have to direct Mr. Taylor not to answer the questions and we will get on the phone with the Board.

BY MR. HICKS:

Would you go ahead and answer my question, Mr. Taylor?

I don't recall the exact wording of the It was like an open form letter to whom it memorandums. may concern. Essentially it came down to expressing that if the workers, be they QC or be they craft, had a

concern with the quality of the station in any way that they should contact the NRC at a phone number that was provided on the form.

Q Was that phone number your phone number?

A It was not. It was the region phone number.

Q Let me go ahead and finish. It is a little easier to make the record clear.

A I am sorry.

Q It was not your resident office phone number?

A It was not.

Q So the notice did not notify people that you were on site; is that correct?

A Not specifically, no.

Q Did you have any method for employees that might wish to talk to you to be able to talk with you confidentially?

A The best that I can offer is that I, along with all other NRC inspectors, typically wear a white hardhat that has our name and NRC on the side of it and the NRC official emblem on the front of it and we are literally a walking billboard when we are in the plant, and if someone wants to contact us all they have to do is walk up to us and tell us that they would like to

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1 contact us and we will work out arrangements accordingly. 2 If anybody wanted to contact you and not 3 do it in the presence of other people that are there at 4 the plant, was there any method? 5 If they knew my name by reading it off my 6: hardhat they could have called me at home. That would be 7 the only way that you could guarantee that they could 8 contact me with no one else's knowledge but theirs and Q. mine. 10 Did you ever make it known in any way that 11 you were available in your off hours to talk with workers 12 at home? No, I didn't at the time. 13 Just so I understand clearly, there was no 14 Q 15 number where people could call and request anonymity? MR. REYNOLDS: Objection. Mr. Hicks. 16 that was a leading question. I think it is the first 17 that you have asked. I would like to know whether you 18 are treating this witness as a hostile witness or not. 19 MR. HICKS: I am not. 20 MR. REYNOLDS: Then maybe you could 21 rephrase that so you don't lead the witness. 22 BY MR. HICKS: 23 24

BY MR. HICKS:

Q Was there any number other than your home
number that people could call and request anonymity?

We have been there before, Mr. Hicks. The letter that was posted on the bulletin board contained the NRC original office phone number with an invitation to call collect. They certainly could use that phone number from an on site phone or they could. certainly use it from an off site phone.

How long did that notice that you just referred to stay up?

In one form or another, be it the notice that was the memorandum to who had concern or the NRC form 3 I believe was there the entire period that I was there.

Was it always just in the one spot or was Q. it put in other spots?

No. As the NRC form 3 was promulgated it had by regulation it had a set of rules that indicated that the form had to be posted such that a person leaving the job site or entering the job site could see it. Thereby the bulletin board posting of the form took the place of the board that had previously been there. The boards were moved to the drive-in entrance gates and to the walk-in entrance gates.

Do you recall when this new rule became Q effective?

> I believe it was on the order of October A

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1983. It might have been October 1982. Now I can't really recall.

Q You wouldn't be surprised if it was October '82, would you?

A No, I wouldn't.

Q Do you recall preparing a report following an inspection that you did that noted that the form 3 sign had been posted in January of '83?

A Yes, sir.

Q So if the rule was effective in October of '82, then there would have been a lapse of time during which it was not posted; is that correct?

A I couldn't establish exactly when it was posted. I could only establish that it was posted when I went to look, and I believe the report so states.

Q Would this have been something that in the normal course of your duties you would have noted?

A Ordinarily no. it is not part of the routine inspection package for resident or non-resident inspectors. The inspection was, shall we say, conducted specially by or motivated by allegations that had been made that the forms were not posted.

Q So that I undestand, between October of '82 and January of '83 then you don't know of your own knowledge if the form 3 was posted?

A Tou are correct. 2 Q Do you know -- well, I am sorry. I 3 apologize. 4 Was it still posted up until you left the 5 plant? 6 Yes, sir. 7 Mr. Taylor, do you know who Chet Atchison is? Q Yes, sir. This week can you state who he is other 10 than his name? 11 A He is now terminated for a period of about 12 two years; a former QC inspector, former training 13 coordinator, former document reviewer, former clerk. Were you present on site when he was 15 terminated? 16 It has been indicated by the dates that, 17 yes, I was. 18 The way you stated that I am not clear. 19 You said it was indicated that you were. 20 Mr. Hicks, I will try and explain that. My recollection is that Mr. Atchison was terminated on 21 the 12th of April of 1982 at some point during the day. 22 I have no knowledge of what that point during the day was. 23 My normal working day on April 12 -- and I was there from 24 7:30 until 4:00 o'clock. Now, if he was terminated before

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4 o'clock, I was there. If he was terminated after 4 o'clock I was not there.

Q At or near that time did you tell anybody connected with the utility something to the effect that referring to Mr. Atchison, "There goes your 1980 alledger?

MR. MIZUNO: Objection. What time?
MR. HICKS: April 12, 1982.

THE WITNESS: No, sir, not on April 12, 1982.

BY MR. HICKS:

Q Did you tell anybody that at any time?

MR. MIZUNO: Objection. What is the relevance of this line of questioning to the issues in this proceeding?

MR. HICKS: It has to do with the same matters I have stated several times before.

MR. MIZUNO: What is the same matters? I keep hearing -- the first time I asked you this I asked you to state the relationship between the line of examination and issues in the proceeding you gave some statement; you never answered my question to you. And now you just keep referring back to this relatively nonsensical answer to my original objection. It is just not responsive to what I am asking you. I would like you to state for the record how your line of questioning relates to the

issues in this proceeding. 2 MR. HICKS: I have already stated it for 3 the record to the extent that I am going to state it. If it is nonsensical, the record will reflect that it is 5 nonsensical. You may make your argument when the time comes, if you want. 6 7 MR. MIZUNO: Okay. Please answer the question. 8 THE WITNESS: I identified Mr. Atchison to the utility -- precise words not recollected -- on 10 the 13th of April. 11 BY MR. HICKS: 12 Who did you tell this? 13 Mr. Tolson. Did you tell anyone else? Q 15 My recollection is no. 16 What was the occasion for your telling 17 Mr. Tolson that? 18 A Mr. Tolson came to me on the morning of 19 the 13th of April with two pieces of paper in hand, 20 21 Mr. Atchison the preceding evening.

showed me the paper and indicated that he had terminated

And what prompted you to tell him that M . Atchison was your 1980 alleger?

I would have to say two things: one is that

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prior, up to, and including 1982 our unwritten guidance on the anonymity issue was that we would shield the name of the person indefinitely so long as that person was employed on the site. As of the 13th Mr. Atchison was no longer employed on the site and Mr. Atchison was told that in 1980 that so long as he was employed on the site the NRC would not divulge his name and we did not. When he became unemployed the guarantee was gone.

Q Okay. You may have stated it and I just missed it, but when did that policy become effective?

A That policy was a verbalized -- I think for lack of a better term -- common sense policy that evolved in at least our region and probably in all the rest of the regions in the NRC. Just as an element, as I said, of common sense.

If a person was employed and he wished to make allegations that we would indefinitely, so long as he was employed, withhold his name.

Q You said that you notified Mr. Atchison of this in 1980.

A He was told that by my then supervisor on the basis of the first contact of Mr. Atchison with the Region IV office.

Q Who was that person?

A That person was William Crossman.

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Q How do you know that Mr. Crossman told Mr. Atchison that?

A In accordance with our normal policy the person who receives allegations immediately documents the allegations and any commitments made therein.

Q So is there a written documentation of this notification?

A There is.

Would it be by Mr. Crossman? Q 2 It was written by Mr. Crossman. 3 Would it be in a form of a memorandum to the tile? 4 5 That's my recollection. It's a memorandum to what we cal! the docket file. 7 It would have been dated some time near the time that Mr. Atchison contacted the NRC about his allegations? 8 Yes, sir. 10 Was there anything written to your knowledge 11 embodying this policy? 12 No. sir. And can you explain why, you say it's a common 13 14 sense policy? 15 A Yes, sir. Will you explain please? 16 I will try to. If there is an alleger who 17 is employed on the site, be it a construction site or an 18 operation site, who contacts the NRC, we do not wish to 19 allow anyone either of the licensee or the agent contractors 20 to be able to take punitive measures against the alleger. 21 The best way to do that, we believe, is to not notify anybody who he is. 23 Once he leaves the site, the employer doesn't 24 have much in the way of retribution that he can make. 25

Q Well, is it common practice, in your experience, that the very day after someone has made an allegation leaves 2 employment that you notify the company against which the 3 allegations have been made that that was the alleger? 4 I cannot say it's common practice. To my knowledge, the only incident in which it occurred was in regard to Mr. Atchison. 7 So I take it, during your time as senior resident inspector of construction at Comanche Peak, Mr. 9 Atchison was the only employee that had made an allegation 10 that was terminated? 11 MR. MIZUNO: Objection. That was not -- I 12 dign't hear that --13 MR. REYNOLDS: It's also a leading question. 14 MR. MIZUNO: Yes. I did not hear that from 15 Mr. Taylor's statement. BY MR. HICKS: 17 During your employment as senior resident inspector for 18 construction at Comanche Peak during the time periods you've testified 19 you were there, were there any other allegers at Comanche Peak? 20 MR. MIZUNO: Objection. The only -- well, 21 it was asked and answered. I can't do anything at this 22 point. 23 MR. REYNOLDS: Mr. Mizuno, I would suggest 24 that you instruct your witness to pause before he answers

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so that you have an opportunity to object.

THE WITNESS: Noted.

BY MR. HICKS:

Were you aware of any of these aliegers having been terminated after having become allegers?

MR. MIZUNO: Objection. The only allegers which are at all relevant to this issue are allegers who were QC inspectors or other QA personnel, and certainly not craftsmen, with the exception of Mr. Stiner. So therefore, any broad questioning regaring the allegers in general would not be appr

> e witness to answer? Do you st BY MR. HICK.

Yes. Would you please answer the question?

There were other persons who made allegations who were terminated. But for the most part, to the best of my recollection what I would call more routine terminations, such as reduction in force, transfers from one section to another, such as within Brown & Root there are other contracts besides Comanche Peak. And on occasion, a person would transfer off-site to another job.

That is a termination within the Comanche Peak site.

Well, did you notify the utility at that time, or the employer at that time that that person was an

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alleger? 2 MR. MIZUNO: Objection. 3 MR. REYNOLDS: That one has been asked and answered. 4 BY MR. HICKS: 5 Would you answer it again please? 0 MR. REYNOLDS: He's already answered it, Mr. Hicks. 8 BY MR. HICKS: Would you answer it again? 10 Mr. Hicks, I have said already that the only 11 time that the divulgence of an alleger's name to the utility 12 came about was in regard to Mr. Atchison. 13 Q What was different about Mr. Atchison's 14 termination that led you to notify the employer that he was 15 an alleger after he was terminated, than the other allegers 16 who were terminated? 17 A An impression of the lack of sincerity on 18 the part of Mr. Atchison. 19 Q Did you convey your impression of his lack 20 of sincerity to Mr. Tolson? 21 I did not. A Did you convey it to anyone? 23 I did not. 24 Q And you are talking about the lack of sincerity 25

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in his allegations of 1980?
                     That is correct.
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                     THE WITNESS: Could we take a short break?
3
                     (Recess.)
4
                     MR. HICKS: Back on the record.
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                     BY MR. HICKS:
                     Mr. Taylor, when you told Mr. Tolson on
7
     April 13th about Mr. Atchison, as you've already testified,
8
     did Mr. Tolson say anything to you?
                    My recollection is no.
10
                     There was no response at all?
11
              A
                    No.
12
                    Do you recall during your employment there a
13
     quality control inspector named -- it may have been Susie
14
     Stockdale at that time, now known I think as Susie Neumeyer?
15
                     I do.
16
                     Do you recall ever meeting with her in your
17
     office?
18
                     I do.
19
                     Do you recall about when you met with her?
              Q
20
                     Well, I have to put it into a very broad
              A
21
     time frame, but it would have been, we'll say in the fall
     of 1983.
23
                     September of '83 would not be an outrageous
24
      guess?
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A It would not be an outrageous guess.

Q Do you recall the subject of the meeting with her?

A Yes. I specifically had her sent to my office. She wasn't, shall we say, voluntarily coming.

Q Let me interrupt for just a second -- I'm sorry.

A I was in the process of investigating a concern by the Board in the initial decision of July 1983 regarding an allegation by Henry Stiner relating to his termination for reporting a gouge in the pipe.

The transcript contained Susie Neumeyer's name. For a period of time, it puzzled me because I had a roster of the people or inspectors on-site. There was no Susie Neumeyer in the log of people that were QC inspectors. I subsequently determined that she had remarried and the name had previously been Stockdale, which it was indeed in the roster.

I asked her to come to my office, showed her the transcript pages that were involved where Henry was testifying, asked her if she could recollect the gouge incident. She did. I asked her at that point if she could help me in locating where that gouge had occurred. She related that it had occurred in a pump room in safeguards 1 building. To the best of her recollection that it had

been in the north pump room.

And I asked her to go down and show it to me. She said that she was wearing a back brace, that she had recently had back surgery, and that there were only straight vertical ladders going down into those particular pump rooms at that point in time, and that she didn't wish to go down those ladders. At that point she was excused.

Q Did you ask her during that meeting with her in the fall of '83 if she had written up a report on the gouge incident?

A I did. I asked her for the type of reports, since there were several available to her. She couldn't remember whether she had written an non-conformance report or some other report.

Q Did you subsequently discover a report relating to that matter?

A I did. I found a non-destructive examination report which described the gouge in detail.

Q When did you discover that report? The non-destructive examination report.

A Within a matter of a few days after I had talked to Mrs. Neumeyer.

Q Did you at any time call that to the attention of the licensing board?

A I did indeed.

When did you do that? A During one of the hearings, I don't remember 2 precisely which one, in which Henry was testifying. 3 time in the early part of '84. 5 Possibly March of '84? 0 Possibly. A Did you feel any need to notify them any earlier? MR. MIZUNO: Objection. What does notifying the licensing board of this NDER have to do with Mr. Stiner's 10 allegation? Or for that matter, Susie Neumeyer's writing 11 12 of this NDER? MR. HICKS: Strike the question. 13 BY MR. HICKS: 14 To the best of your recollection, does the 15 0 NDER relate directly to this one gouge incident? 16 It does. 17 And just to try to at it clear on the 18 record, what is the difference between an NCR and an NDER? 19 Mostly one of application. An NDER is 20 typically used to document the accomplishment of a 21 non-destructive examination. A visual inspection being one of those non-destructive exa inations. 23 The document can be accepted or it can be rejected. If it's a reject, there's a description of why 25

it is rejected. 2 While you were senior resident engineer, did 3 you --MR. MIZUNO: Excuse me, that's not what he 4 5 was at the site. BY MR. HICKS: I'm sorry, senior resident inspector for construction, my apologies. Did you form any opinion from your experience there as to whether employees on the site were hesitant to 10 cooperate with the NRC because they were afraid they would 11 be fired by their employer? 12 MR. MIZUNO: Objection, I will allow Mr. 13 Taylor to answer the question, but I would state for the 14 record that the answer to that question is not relevant to 15 the issues in this proceeding. Mr. Taylor, please answer the 16 17 question. THE WITNESS: I was aware that most of the 18 hourly personnel in particular probably were fearful of 19 approaching me or coming to my office. 20 BY MR. HICKS: 21 For what reason? 22 Fear of terrination. 23 So if your co-workers, Mr. Herr and Mr. 24

Driskill said something to that effect, you would agree with

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them; is that correct? 2 A I would. 3 When you would receive complaints or allegations from workers, typically how would you go about addressing 4 them? 5 MR. MIZUNO: Objection. Again, I have a continuing objection on this line. 7 THE WITNESS: Shall I answer? MR. MIZUNO: Yes. THE WITNESS: Ordinarily, a memorandum for the 10 record would be prepared. My Region IV office would be 11 notified. And on their direction I would or would not 12 address them. 13 Frequently, the allegations would be of a 14 nature that our investigative arm would be more capable of 15 addressing them than I would. And they could be assigned 16 then. Also, there would be situations in which I had 17 eminently higher priority work at that point in time, and 18 other people from the Region office could be assigned to 19 investigate them.

I only investigated allegations when ordered to by Region IV.

When you were ordered to, what would you do?

A I can really only take it on a case basis. It depends on the exact nature of the allegation and how

4pb11 much information I have to work with. Q If there was an allegation of intimidation or harassment, how would you handle that? A I was never assigned to investigate allegations end 4. of intimidation or harassment.

Q Were you ever assigned to investigate
any allegations regarding the quality assurance/quality
control program at the plant?

A Again you have to take that on a case

A Again you have to take that on a case basis. In one form or another most allegations related in some way to the QA/QC program.

(Pause.)

Q When you were reassigned in January of '84 that you testified to earlier, was there any communication to you from the NRC about the reasons for your reassignment?

A I testified to that, Mr. Hicks, already. The answer is no.

Q In no form?

A In no form.

MR. HICKS: I have no further questions. Oh, I'm sorry. Strike that. I have one.

BY MR. HICKS:

Earlier, when you were testifying about Susie, now known as Neumeyer, coming to your office inthe fall of '83 you had said something about the voluntariness of her coming and I am not clear -- I had asked you -- I intended to ask you what you meant by that and I am not certain that the answers you gave me were intended as

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1 your answer to that question. What did you mean by your reference to the 3 voluntariness of her coming? A I meant that I instructed -- I don't 4 recall exactly whom --5 Could it be Mr. Cromeans? I instructed Cromeans to have her located 7 and sent to my office. 8 Okay. So you meant by not voluntary that she just had not shown up yet? 10 A No. I had asked her to come to my office. 11 She didn't ask me to be allowed in for her to come to my 12 office. 13 Okay. I understand now. 14 MR. HICKS: I have no further questions. 15 MR. REYNOLDS: Could we take a 10-minute 16 recess, Mr. Mizuno? 17 MR. MIZUNO: Yes. 18 (10-minute recess.) 19 EXAMINATION 20 BY MR. REYNOLDS: 21 Mr. Taylor, Mr. Hicks asked you earlier 22 about the location of your office; do you recall that 23 testimony? 24 A Yes, sir. 25

1	Q In your opinion, did your office location
2	ever hamper you in the performance of your duties?
3	A I believe it would reflect quite the
4	contrary. It aided me.
5	Q How so, sir?
6	A Being within the construction administration
7	building gave me easier access to specification files,
8	drawing files, management level people than had I been
9	out in, as an example, the remote building, the office
10	trailer, or something of this nature.
11	Q Did anyone ever express to you a reluctance
12	to visit you because of your location?
13	A To me, no.
14	Q Well, to anyone else that you know of?
15	A I have heard by hearsay that that type
16	of statement has been made to our investigators.
17	Q Did you ever consider the need to move the
18	location of your office?
19	A I didn't pick the location of the office
20	and to have moved the office would have required
21	Region IV direction, assistance and money.
22	Q Did you see any need to move the office?
23	A No, sir.
24	Q Mr. Taylor, you stated earlier that you
25	perceive that most hourly personnel were fearful of

3 Yes. I do. Sir, do you know of anyone who was 5 terminated for talking to you? 6 No, sir, I do not. 7 Well, do you have any basis for your 8 observation about most hourly personnel were fearful of 9 approaching you? 10 I believe so, a reasonable basis. 11 What would that be? 0 As an example, at one time the Brown & Root 12 assistant project manager whose name was Charles 13 Scruggs, had a nickname, "Two-check." The nickname was 14 derived from a series of events that Mr. Scruggs 15 accomplished, like walking through the facility, seeing 16 someone in the craft that he didn't believe was working 17 to his fu 1 performance level, walking up to him, firing 18 him on the spot, and having his withheld pay check given 19 to him literally as he walked out the door. 20 Would that relate to QC inspectors? 21 Negative. 22 To whom would it relate? 23 Only to craft. 24 I'm not sure how I understand how that 25

approaching you due to fear of termination. Do you

remember a statement to that effect?

connects up with the basis for your observation that hourly workers were fearful of approaching you. Could you help me understand that?

A I will try. Only by the fact that the Comanche Peak site as well as most of the large construction sites in the South are open shop. There is no employee protection as in union jobs. A worker can be terminated on the spot, literally at the whim of his foreman and general foreman.

Q So, in other words, and I don't mean to put words in your mouth, so please, if I misstate this in your view, say so.

The fear that the hourly personnell may have had was more related to the fact that if they approached you they wouldn't be out doing their job rather than the fact that you were Mr. NRC on site; is that your point?

A No, I'm afraid not.

O Okay. Please help me then.

A The craft workers at Comanche Peak and many of places have literally no protective mechanisms that many of us who, as an example, work for the government or who work for private long-term firms. I don't know exactly how to say that. But have standardized employment practices that require multiple levels of review before a

person is disciplined or terminated. The cycle in most of the nonunion construction shops simply involves a foreman's decision that he wishes to terminate someone for some reason, and it is accomplished almost immediately.

Q Well, would the perceived fear of the hourly personnel of approaching you be due to the fact that you were the NRC resident inspector or simply because it was not within their normal job scope to be talking to someone, anyone, whether it is an NRC person or someone else?

A It could be both. It could in fact be both.

A craft person, as an example, who left his normal work area, wherever that may be, and journeyed to my office is out of his work position and upon being noticed out of work position by a foreman as an example, the man would be subject to immediate termination.

Q Regardless of whether he is talking to you or going to the head?

A That's right.

Q I guess that is why the Region IV telephone number is so important to be posted?

A That's correct.

Q Do you believe that this fear that you perceive in hourly personnel was a reasonable fear?

A Not entirely. If the craft persons had in fact contacted the NRC, the NRC and/or me would have to

a degree protected the person and he probably could have lost some of his fear of being terminated.

Q I think I asked you this, but I will ask it again to be sure it is on the record. Do you know of anyone who was terminated for talking to you?

A No, sir, I do not.

Q Do you know of anyone who was disciplined for talking to you?

A No, sir, I do not.

Q Do you know of anyone who was discouraged from talking to you by management or applicants?

A No, sir, I do not.

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MR. REYNOLDS: I have no further questions. EXAMINATION 3 BY MR. MIZUNO: XXXXXX 4 Mr. Taylor, just one question: Did you have any 5 QC inspectors approach you or any other QA personnel approach you and indicated to you that they had been intimidated or 7 harassed? A No, sir. MR. MIZUNO: No more questions. EXAMINATION 11 BY MR. HICKS: XXXXX 12 You testified, in answer to a question from 0 13 Mr. Reynolds, that you didn't pick the location of your 14 office. Who did? 15 My management. 16 Did they do it in consultation with the utility? 17 Yes, sir. A 18 Do you know which actually made the decision as 0 19 to where they office would be? 20 Yes, sir. I was present. 21 Which was it? Q 22 The person? 23 Yes. 0 24 The person at the time was my NRC Branch Chief in Region IV, Mr. Sidell, accompanied by his immediate 25

subordinate section chief, Mr. Crossman, and by me.

- Q And who, with the Applicant, did they consult?
 Or did you all consult?
 - A My recollection is that it was Joe E. George.
- Q Also, in answer to a question from Mr. Reynolds -and tell me if I am paraphrasing this incorrectly, but I
 believe you said that you didn't know of anyone who was
 discouraged by management from talking with you. Is that a
 fair paraphrase of that part of your testimony?
 - A Yes.
- Q When you say you don't know of anyone that was discouraged, can you go into a little more detail of what you mean by "discouraged"?
- A I was answering your question. I would have to take the question to mean am I personally aware, by having a person tell me that he had been discouraged from talking to mc.
- It isn't likely that management is going to come and tell me that they discouraged someone. So, the only way that I could become privy to that information would be from the party who was discouraged. And this didn't occur.
- Q That answer was not based on your observation of management actions; is that correct?
 - A No, sir, it was not.
 - MR. HICKS: I have no further questions.

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EXAMINATION

BY MR. REYNOLDS:

Q Mr. Taylor, what is your perception as to management's attitude towards someone who might come to you?

A My perception is that management, in many ways, was more fearful of how I might react if they took retaliative measures on a person than they would be fearful of the allegations themselves.

Q That implies that management has a hands-off policy only because they feared you. Is that what you mean to imply?

A Not entirely. Realistically, however, I cannot predict how management would have reacted under different circumstances, because the circumstances were never different.

Did I make myself clear?

Yes, I think I understand what you're saying.

MR. REYNOLDS: Nothing further.

EXAMINATION

BY MR. MIZUNO:

Q Mr. Taylor, have you ever observed any utility manager, supervisor, or any of the subcontractors of the utility at Comanche Peak discouraging a QC inspector or other QA Department personnel from going to the NRC?

A No.

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MR. MIZUNO: That's all. 2 MR. HICKS: I have another question. EXAMINATION 4 BY MR. HICKS: 5 Again, in answer to a question from Mr. Reynolds, 6 you said that it was your perception -- and I'm going to have a difficult time, I think, paraphrasing this, so please 7 correct me if I do it incorrectly -- it was your perception that management was more fearful of NRC's reaction to --10 May I help you? I used the word "retaliation." 11 Q Okay. 12 Can you paraphrase your testimony on that once 13 again? 14 I will try. A 15 Redo what I said, or exp'ain what I said? 16 Explain what you said, because that's going to 17 be ultimately my question. 18 Okay, we'll just get down to the bottom line then. 19 Any retaliative measures that, generally speaking, 20 the contractors would have made against one of their 21 employees, barring the knowledge of the NRC, would ordinarily be a very private affair between the company and the person. 22 23 With the NRC knowledge of the item, two courses 24 could have taken place: One, NRC management could have,

publicly or through legal measures, taken action; or the

1	other meas	ure is that an inspector documents the condition
2	that he has	s observed, and it goes into the public record.
3	And ordina	rily, our Licensees and I don't necessarily want
4	to pick on	the Licensee at Comanche don't like the NRC
5	putting in	the public record negative declaratory information
6	of that nat	ture. It damages their regulated image.
7	Q	That is your perception of the situation?
8	A	Yes, sir.
9	Q	And it's based, I take it, on your experience at
10	this plant	and other plants?
11	Α	Yes, sisr.
12	Q	Is this your perception ba ed on anything else?
13	A	No.
14	Q	Were there any specific incidents or comments made
15	to you?	
16	A	No, not by the utility; no, sir.
17		MR. HICKS: I have no further questions.
18		EXAMINATION
19		BY MR. REYNOLDS:
20	Q	Mr. Taylor, I'm a little confused by your answer.
21		Do you mean to say that the regulated companies
22	would rathe	r take care of their own problems than have the
23	NRC cite th	em for something; is that the point?
24	Α	If they can, yes, sir.
25	Q	In other words, they would rather have it

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documented on an NCR and address the issue internally than have the NRC come swooping in and say, "You have a problem here"? 3 Yes, sir. 4 That is logical. 5 Sir, do you know of any retaliation by management against anyone who sought you out or sought anyone from the 7 NRC out? I do not. MR. REYNOLDS: I have no further questions. 10 MR. MIZUNO: No questions. 11 MR. REYNOLDS: Mr. Hicks, this is your last round. 12 MR. HICKS: I have no further questions. 13 (Whereupon, at 10:48 a.m., the taking of the 14 deposition was concluded.) 15 16 17 Robert R. Taylor 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

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CERTIFICATE OF PROCEEDINGS

This is to certify that the attached proceedings before the MRC COMMISSION

In the matter of:

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Texas Utilities Electric Company, et al

Deposition of Robert R. Taylor

Date of Proceeding:

Tuesday, July 17, 1984

Place of Proceeding: Glen Rose, Texas

were held as herein appears, and that this is the original transcript for the file of the Commission.

Suzanne Young

Official Reporter - Typed

Official Reporter - Signature