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12/1/83

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD



In the Matter of )  
DUKE POWER COMPANY, et al. )  
(Catawba Nuclear Station, )  
Units 1 and 2) )

Docket Nos. 50-418  
50-414

TESTIMONY OF RONALD KIRKLAND

1 Q. STATE YOUR NAME AND YOUR WORK ADDRESS.

2 A. Ronald Kirkland, Catawba Nuclear Station QA, P.O. Box 223,  
3 Clover, SC 29710.

4 Q. WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT JOB WITH DUKE POWER COMPANY?

5 A. I am a Level II Welding Inspector, certified in PT and MT NDE  
6 Inspection in Units 1 and 2 Interior and Exterior doghouses, and in  
7 all other aspects of the plant.

8 Q. SUMMARIZE YOUR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS, INCLUDING  
9 OTHER DUKE AND NON-DUKE JOBS, EDUCATION,  
10 CERTIFICATIONS, AND COMPANY SPONSORED COURSES AND  
11 TRAINING.

12 A. I am a graduate of East Gaston High School, and I have 4 months  
13 welding experience with Gaston County Dye. I was a utility man  
14 for Duke Power at Catawba for 2 months in 1976, and 2 years  
15 welding experience for Duke Power at Catawba during 1977-1978. I  
16 have been in Welding Inspection for Duke Power for 5 years at  
17 Catawba, with approximately 6 months experience in Level II PT &  
18 MT Inspection.

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PDR ADDCK 05000413  
G PDR

1 Q. ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH WHAT IS COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS  
2 THE WELDING INSPECTOR CONCERNS WHICH WERE EXPRESSED IN  
3 LATE 1981/EARLY 1982?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. WHAT IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THESE CONCERNS  
6 WERE?

7 A. (1) Some inspectors expressed their concerns on the lack of  
8 support from management.

9 (2) Some inspectors filed a recourse on our pay percentage cut.

10 Q. DID YOU EXPRESS ANY CONCERNS AS A WELDING INSPECTOR TO  
11 ANY OF THE TASK FORCES OR TO DUKE POWER MANAGEMENT?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. TO WHOM DID YOU EXPRESS YOUR CONCERNS?

14 A. I expressed my concerns to the Nontechnical Task Force, Gail  
15 Addis, Neal Alexander and R. A. Morgan.

16 Q. WERE YOUR CONCERNS WRITTEN?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. DESCRIBE EACH DOCUMENT WHICH CONTAINS YOUR EXPRESSION  
19 OF CONCERNS, AND INDICATE WHO IT WAS SUBMITTED TO.

20 A. (1) Wrote a recourse letter on our pay percentage cut to R. A.  
21 Morgan, J. R. Wells, Gail Addis, Bill Lee.

22 (2) Wrote a recourse letter to R. A. Morgan because of the lack of  
23 support I experienced while working on the 2nd shift.

24 Q. DID YOU FEEL FREE TO EXPRESS ALL OF YOUR CONCERNS?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. DID YOU EXPRESS ALL OF YOUR CONCERNS?  
2 A. Yes.  
3 Q. DOES THE DOCUMENT ATTACHED TO YOUR TESTIMONY AS  
4 ATTACHMENT A REFLECT YOUR WRITTEN CONCERNS?  
5 A. Yes, I have attached as Attachment A the letter I wrote to R. A  
6 Morgan regarding the lack of support I experienced as I stated  
7 earlier.  
8 Q. ARE ALL OF YOUR CONCERNS INCLUDED IN THIS DOCUMENT?  
9 A. Yes.  
10 Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE AND EXPLAIN WHAT YOU WERE TRYING TO  
11 COMMUNICATE BY YOUR CONCERNS.  
12 A. I explained the lack of support I experienced while working on the  
13 2nd shift. When work was stopped because of a problem, we did  
14 not have technical support on the shift to resolve all the problems  
15 at that time. So we had to wait until the morning shift came on to  
16 resolve the problem.  
17 Q. WERE YOUR CONCERNS INVESTIGATED BY THE TASK FORCES?  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. DID YOU ATTEND ANY MEETINGS WITH TASK FORCE AND/OR QA  
20 MANAGEMENT MEMBERS WHERE THE TASK FORCE FINDINGS,  
21 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WERE DISCUSSED?  
22 A. (1) I attended a meeting with George Grier where he had called in  
23 all of the welding inspectors to show us all of the people that  
24 were involved in taking care of all of our concerns, and the  
25 process for resolving those concerns.

1 (2) Then, I met with Neal Alexander to discuss my specific  
2 concerns. I cannot remember the details of the meeting.

3 Q. WERE THERE ANY CHANGES MADE IN THE QA PROGRAM AFTER  
4 THE WELDING INSPECTOR CONCERNS AND THE TASK FORCE  
5 INVESTIGATION OF THESE CONCERNS?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. DESCRIBE THE CHANGES OF WHICH YOU ARE AWARE IN THE QA  
8 PROGRAM.

9 A. While I cannot recall all of the changes, two come to mind. These  
10 are (1) we now have an Employee Relations Person and (2) we now  
11 have a task force to go over procedures. As for my concern on  
12 technical support for the 2nd shift, I have not been back on that  
13 shift since that time so I do not know if this has been completely  
14 resolved.

15 Q. TO WHAT EXTENT HAVE THESE CHANGES ADDRESSED ISSUES  
16 RAISED BY THE WELDING INSPECTOR CONCERNS AND TO WHAT  
17 EXTENT HAVE THESE CHANGES ADDRESSED YOUR PARTICULAR  
18 CONCERNS?

19 A. As I already stated, I don't know if my specific concern has been  
20 addressed because I have not been back on the 2nd shift.

21 Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER CONCERNS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN  
22 RESOLVED?

23 A. No.

24 Q. THE WELDING INSPECTOR CONCERNS HAVE BEEN  
25 CHARACTERIZED AS CONCERNS ABOUT THE QUALITY AND  
26 SAFETY OF CONSTRUCTION AT CATAWBA. DO YOU AGREE OR  
27 DISAGREE WITH THAT CHARACTERIZATION?

1 A. I disagree because my concerns had nothing to do with the quality  
2 or the safe operating of the plant. I feel that the quality of work  
3 and the safety of construction is above board.

4 Q. DID THE EXPRESSION OF YOUR CONCERNS INDICATE YOUR  
5 BELIEF THAT THERE WAS A BREAKDOWN IN THE QA PROGRAM  
6 OR INDICATE THAT THE QA PROGRAM WAS NO LONGER  
7 WORKING?

8 A. No. However, I felt that there was a problem with rapid  
9 communications and solving problems on the 2nd shift because we  
10 didn't have the technical support like they had on the 1st shift.

11 Q. DID YOUR CONCERNS REFLECT A BELIEF ON YOUR PART THAT  
12 THE CATAWBA PROJECT IS NOT BEING CONSTRUCTED SAFELY?

13 A. No.

14 Q. IN YOUR VIEW, HAS THE QA PROGRAM BEEN EFFECTIVE WHILE  
15 YOU HAVE WORKED AS AN INSPECTOR AT CATAWBA?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY DEFICIENCIES IN CONSTRUCTION OR IN  
18 THE QA PROGRAM WHICH WOULD CAUSE YOU TO QUESTION  
19 WHETHER CATAWBA IS SAFELY BUILT?

20 A. No.

21 Q. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO YOUR  
22 TESTIMONY?

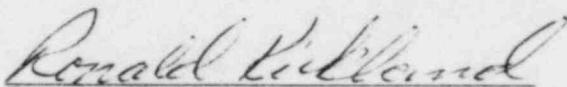


1 A. I believe that Catawba has been built safely. I believe that the  
2 quality of work on the job, as far as the welding part, is second to  
3 none. I believe, and I am confident, that the plant can operate  
4 safely without any danger to the public.

5  
6  
7

8 I hereby certify that I have read and understand this document, and  
9 believe it to be my true, accurate and complete testimony.

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13  
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15

  
Ronald Kirkland

16 Sworn to and subscribed before me  
17 this 20th day of September, 1983.

18  
19  
20  
21

  
Notary Public

22

23 Commission Expires March 7, 1993

1-19-82

MR. R.A. MORGAN



MY CONCERN IS, THE LACK OF SUPPORT THAT I AND OTHER WELDING INSPECTOR'S HAVE EXPERIENCED, WHILE WORKING ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SHIFT. THE ONLY SUPPORT THAT WE GET ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SHIFT, IS FROM A SENIOR MAN. WE DO NOT HAVE ANYONE TO GIVE US AN NCI NUMBER, AND WE DO NOT HAVE ANYONE TO SIGN OFF A QI-A FORM. IF A PROBLEM SHOULD ARISE WHILE WE'RE ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SHIFT, WE HAD TO WAIT UNTIL WE COME IN THE NEXT DAY TO GET IT RESOLVED. THE CRAFTSMEN ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SHIFT, THEY HAVE A TECH. SUPPORT GROUP THAT THEY CAN TAKE THEIR PROBLEMS TO, TO GET THEM RESOLVED. WHY IS IT THAT THE WELDING INSPECTOR'S DO NOT HAVE A TECH. SUPPORT GROUP FROM QA TO DEAL WITH THEIR PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SHIFT.

Sincerely,  
Ronald Kirkland

NUC - An Act to Amend the NUC COMMISSION

Section No. 50-413  
in the matter of Catawba District No. 80

Approved   
Approved   
Cont'd. by DDT   
Contacted  IDENTIFIED   
Other  RECEIVED  REJECTED

Reporter Mary Annino DATE 12/1/83  
Witness \_\_\_\_\_