



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

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NOTE TO: Jim Fitzgerald, OI
FROM: Jim Sniezek, IE
SUBJECT: AFFIDAVIT CONTAINING ALLEGATION REGARDING MIDLAND

Enclosed for appropriate action is an affidavit containing allegations regarding the Midland facility. The affidavit was given to the NRC by Mr. Thomas Devine (GAP) during the public meeting conducted in Midland on February 8, 1983. The affidavit has been entered into the NRC Allegation Tracking System.

Jim
Jim Sniezek, IE

Enclosure:
Affidavit dtd 2/8/83

cc w/enclosure:
J. G. Keppler, RIII
E. F. Fox, IE

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AFFIDAVIT

My name is Richard Letherer. I am submitting this affidavit freely and voluntarily, without any threats, inducements or coercion, to Mr. Thomas Devine, who has identified himself to me as the legal director of the Government Accountability Project (GAP) of the Institute for Policy Studies. This statement evidences my concerns over collusion between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Bechtel Corporation at the Midland Nuclear Power Plant in Midland, Michigan; as well as unqualified Bechtel engineers and quality control (QC) personnel, mismanagement that has caused delays and compromised quality work, gross waste in the construction of the plant, and intoxication among the workforce. *JD*

I am a pipefitter in Local 85 of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the U.S. and Canada. I have served my union as local president and as a union steward.

I have worked at Midland as a pipefitter on and off for 3.5 years total since February 1978. Originally I worked for Power Systems, Inc. Since April 1978, however, my work at Midland has been for the Bechtel Corporation. I am still employed on-site. I have 27 years of experience as a plumber and pipefitter, including 15 years as a foreman at various jobs. Among other jobs, I have worked on a local hospital, bank, apartment building, iron foundry, high school and the Dow chemical plant.

For years the NRC has been colluding with Bechtel by providing warnings of exactly where and when the NRC would conduct its hardware inspections. This was a routine procedure and I cannot remember a single instance during my time at Midland where we have not been warned in advance of where and when the NRC would be looking. I know, because Bechtel supervisors told me. They would come to the field to make sure that specific pieces could pass inspection and ignore everything else around the targeted hardware. As a result, the government inspection reports do not provide a representative description of the plant's condition.

The most recent example of which I am aware occurred during the second or third week of January, 1983. A Bechtel superintendent, Ted Jennings, started climbing around

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the hardware system for the turbine in the 634-foot elevation of Unit 1. Jennings stepped on a particular duct. Since a union man had been fired for stepping on the same duct, one of my co-workers asked Jennings what he was doing in the area. He replied that this was where the NRC was going to inspect.

I can understand why Bechtel needed the advance warnings. There was a severe problem with the qualifications for certain of its quality control inspectors and engineers. QC inspectors told me that they had never done that type of work before. They were hired from the secretarial pools, or off the streets. There was a similar problem with unqualified engineers. For instance, one engineer could not accept that anything was wrong when I showed him that a blueprint required piping to run through a doorway.

In my opinion, the lack of qualified personnel constituted mismanagement and compromised the quality of work. Another example involved Bechtel's pattern of reassigning workers, and particularly general foremen and supervisors, before they completed their assignments. As a result, the experience and expertise of the previous employees were lost, and a new man had to be broken in. The excuse was that they were being trained. My question is -- for what? It was certainly not to complete what they started. Superintendents hardly ever stayed in one spot for more than six months.

Several examples illustrate my point. One general foreman worked in the auxiliary building for over two years. Then he was moved to the tools area. In another case, a general foreman named Dan McHenry had worked in the evaporator building for over a year and knew his job well. With six months left to go on the evaporator work, McHenry was moved to the containment. Another man who was completely ignorant of McHenry's evaporator building project came over from the auxiliary building to replace him. The new man had to start from scratch.

The effect of the mismanagement was unnecessary rework and cost overruns. Design and installation essentially were done on a trial-and-error basis. The same work was done over and over. To illustrate, we would warn Bechtel management that pipes were in locations that would obstruct other hardware or did not have sufficient space to vibrate during operation, but they would ignore us and order them installed. Later the work would have to be done over. Huge pipes were installed, ripped out and later reinstalled three to four times in numerous places. The problem also applies to pumps, such

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as the ^{Pipes & S} ~~pumps~~ that circulate water at the 599-foot elevation. It applies to the plates on main steam pipes that run from the evaporator to the evaporator building. It was obvious from the start that the four-inch plates were inadequate for the 42-inch pipes. Now they are all being replaced.

This has led to a tremendous amount of unnecessary overtime. Overtime costs up to \$35 per hour for Bechtel, which charges Consumers Power \$45-50 per hour.

Sometimes the gross waste occurred from throwing out good materials or practically giving them away. For example, when the December 1982 layoffs occurred, six Hirschfield scrap metal truckloads a day carted off small bore piping and other metal such as unused hangers, tube steel and angle irons for over a week. Bechtel also sold expensive steel tubing to the workers for less than scrap metal prices. ^{AS}

When I first arrived, another problem on-site was intoxication through drinking and smoking marijuana on the job. You could get high just by breathing the air in some areas of the plant. ^{RL} Although I cleaned up the crew that I supervised, I can't vouch for the rest of the plant. WHILE I WAS UNION REPRESENTATIVE, INTOXICATION DECREASED CONSIDERABLY

I have read the above three-page statement, and it is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

J. Richard Letherer
RICHARD LETHERER

Subscribed and Sworn To before me
this 8th day of February, 1983.

Richard F. Brzezinski
Notary Public

RICHARD F. BRZEZINSKI
Notary Public, Bay County, Mich.
My Commission Expires Nov. 30, 1985.