

REPORT OF INTERVIEW  
WITH  
JOSEPH D. SHARPE

SHARPE was interviewed on July 29, 1992, by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Investigator Virginia Van Cleave at Houston Lighting and Power (HL&P), South Texas Project (STP). Also present during this interview was William E. BAER, Attorney with Newman and Holtzinger, representing HL&P and SHARPE. SHARPE stated that he began working for HL&P at STP on his retirement from the U.S. Navy in June 1990. He has been the maintenance manager since January 1991.

SHARPE stated that Donald HALL, STP's Group Vice President-Nuclear, called him into a meeting in HALL's office sometime in the afternoon, in the middle of February 1992. He stated he could not recall the exact date. According to SHARPE, HALL stated that Instrumentation and Control Technician, Thomas J. SAPORITO, had filed a 2.206 petition against HL&P. SHARPE stated that he got the impression HALL had just received the 2.206. SHARPE said when he heard SAPORITO's name, he remembered he had signed SAPORITO's unescorted access authorization form 1 or 2 days earlier. In addition to SHARPE and HALL, William JUMP, STP Licensing Manager, and John ODOM, STP Human Resources Manager, were also present in HALL's office. SHARPE said other individuals were in and out of HALL's office during these discussions. According to SHARPE, HALL stated he wanted him, as the maintenance manager, to ensure that SAPORITO was "protected from disciplinary actions." SHARPE stated he took this to mean that there would be no disciplinary action taken against SAPORITO without previous approval by Warren KINSEY, STP Vice President-Nuclear Generation, unless such action was necessary to ensure the public safety.

SHARPE recalled that HALL stated that SAPORITO had "done this kind of thing before" at other nuclear sites. SHARPE said he could not recall if HALL mentioned specific actions taken by SAPORITO. He stated he believed HALL mentioned more than one nuclear plant but could not recall names or locations. SHARPE said HALL assigned JUMP the task of investigating all of SAPORITO's 2.206 issues. SHARPE stated he did not recall HALL mentioning where he had received the information on SAPORITO's past nor did he recall HALL mentioning contact with legal counsel. SHARPE did not recall anyone else in HALL's office talking specifically about SAPORITO.


Immediately following this meeting in HALL's office, SHARPE stated he was called into a meeting with KINSEY. KINSEY explained what a 2.206 was in general terms to SHARPE and one or two others whom SHARPE stated he could not recall. According to SHARPE, KINSEY told him he wanted to ensure that SHARPE understood what was required of the maintenance department and that SAPORITO would be "protected." SHARPE stated that he had never seen SAPORITO's nuclear file and did not recall seeing such a file in either HALL or KINSEY's office. SHARPE stated he asked KINSEY if Daniel SANCHEZ and Richard LeLONG, Maintenance Department Supervisors, could be notified about the SAPORITO matter, and KINSEY told him yes.

SHARPE stated that later that day, he called SANCHEZ and DeLONG into his office and told them that SAPORITO had filed a 2.206 petition. He explained to them that this document included allegations that would be investigated by

HL&P and perhaps the NRC. SHARPE said he told them that SAPORITO would continue working at STP and was not to be disciplined in any way without notifying him. He said that if he was not present on the site, SANCHEZ was to notify KINSEY prior to taking any action against SAPORITO. SHARPE stated that DeLONG seemed to be somewhat familiar with SAPORITO, but did not say anything specifically about him. SHARPE said he told DeLONG and SANCHEZ that SAPORITO had been involved in similar activities at other plants. He stated he did not recall if he specified those plants, but he probably did so, since he would have seen no reason not to provide that information to them. Additionally, he told them to treat SAPORITO's name in a confidential manner and to ensure that he [SAPORITO] was protected from disciplinary action.

SHARPE stated that he was away from STP in February 1992, when SAPORITO's unescorted access was revoked. He stated he could not recall when this was or whether he was away from STP for personal or business reasons. However, when he returned, he recalled that SANCHEZ told him that SAPORITO's access had been revoked. He stated he could not recall if he asked for and/or received the reason for the revocation. SHARPE stated he does not maintain a calendar nor does he ever take notes of any meetings. SHARPE stated that he heard nothing further regarding SAPORITO except he was asked to review HL&P's draft response to sections of the 2.206 that applied to the maintenance department and the final HL&P response to the NRC.

This report prepared on August 3, 1992, from investigator's notes.

  
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Virginia Van Cleave, Investigator  
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