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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Agency: U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: INTERVIEW OF: HARVEY HANDFINGER

Docket No.

LOCATION: WAYNESBORO, GEORGIA

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 1990

PAGES: 2-11

ANN RILEY & ASSOCIATES, LTD.

1612 K St. N.W., Suite 300

Washington, D.C. 20006

(202) 293-3950

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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

INTERVIEW OF:

HARVEY HANDFINGER

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Main Conference Room
Administration Building
Vogtle Electric Generating Plant
Waynesboro, Georgia

Tuesday, March 27, 1990

The interview commenced at 4:01 p.m.

APPEARANCES:

On behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

WILLIAM LAZARUS
GENE TRAGER

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PROCEEDINGS

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2 MR. LAZARUS: I's March 27, 4:01 p.m., we're
3 interviewing Mr. Harvey Handfinger.

4 THE WITNESS: Correct.

5 MR. LAZARUS: Regarding his participation in the
6 loss of power incident on Tuesday, March 20.

7 Whereupon,

8 HARVEY HANDFINGER

9 appeared as a witness herein, and was examined and testified
10 as follows:

11 EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. LAZARUS:

13 Q Mr. Handfinger, would you tell us what your name and
14 position is please?

15 A My name is Harvey Handfinger, I'm the Maintenance
16 Manager. At the time of the incident, I was the Operations
17 Support Center Manager.

18 Q Okay. Would you tell us how you were involved in
19 the incident on Tuesday in just a narrative form, where you
20 were, how you responded, what your duties were, what you saw
21 and observed during that time.

22 A Okay. At the time the incident was declared, I
23 responded to the OSC and assumed my position as the OSC
24 Manager. We activated the OSC, contacted the Technical
25 Support Center for direction. In addition, at that time we

1 knew there had been people dispatched in other areas,
2 specifically to do some things in containment. We tried to
3 establish who those people were and what they were doing at
4 that point in time. We dispatched our teams consistent with
5 procedures. One of the first things you do is -- is it all
6 right if I use my log a little bit?

7 MR. LAZARUS: Absolutely.

8 A Okay, once the site area is declared, one of the
9 things we do is get field monitoring teams prepared and we
10 get the HP to go to the HP control point. Parallel with
11 that, we had a request for some people to go to the MET
12 tower to support some MET tower data, so we briefed them.
13 Did you want me to go how we do some of this activity
14 consistent with some of the HP concerns?

15 MR. LAZARUS: Yes.

16 A We have HP support in the Operational Support
17 Center. We get from them what the radiological conditions
18 are. At the time we dispatch any team, we brief each team
19 before they leave. We brief them as to what the
20 radiological conditions are, what the plant conditions are,
21 whether we're in a site area, whatever kind of event we're
22 in. We give them radio communication, we verify radio
23 communication, we give them on-site and off-site telephone
24 numbers to contact and we require them to call us when they
25 reach the location and we require them to call us every 30

1 minutes thereafter. So that's the way we basically brief
2 each team.

3 We assembled the team to go to the HP control point
4 where people going into the plant -- the first thing they do
5 is go to the HP control point for briefing for health
6 physics requirements inside the plant. In parallel with
7 that, I validate -- I verify with the HP people that people
8 in containment, working on some of the activities in
9 containment, had full HP coverage. The HP supervisor
10 informed me that was correct, that everybody had HP coverage
11 and that those activities were in fact going on.

12 Q So all of the normal health physics practices were
13 covered with no emergency radiation work?

14 A That's right. With no dose release at that point in
15 time, the only thing we did was send two off-site field
16 monitoring teams at the request of the Technical Support
17 Center, we dispatched two off-site teams.

18 Q How many teams did you dispatch to the containment
19 to work there?

20 A There were already people there, there were people -
21 - to the best of my recollection, we had a team working,
22 getting the steam generator manways on, the pressurizer
23 manways, verifying we had two valves, the cumulator
24 discharge valve on the D-cumulator and the alternate
25 charging check valve cover on, which were all points that we

1 knew were open at that point in time. Those were primarily
2 the people who were in containment. We got the names of
3 those individuals who were performing those activities. We
4 contacted TSC and gave that information and we also
5 contacted TSC when they were out of containment.

6 We also dispatched a number of other teams to check
7 elevators to make sure people weren't stuck on elevators.
8 We had some air compressors running, we dispatched a team to
9 assure that we shut down all those temporary air
10 compressors. We also dispatched a team to bring up the
11 computer that needed to support some of the activities -- is
12 basically what we did.

13 Q Do you know what computer that was?

14 A It was one of our in-plant -- I think it was our
15 MPNIS, just our in-plant computer for work orders and
16 things.

17 Q So in your words, everything worked pretty smoothly
18 as far as being able to control teams, dispatch them, work
19 with Health Physics?

20 A Yeah, once we had the OSC established, we had
21 maintained control of getting teams out. Teams were always
22 dispatched as directed by the TSC, we didn't dispatch
23 anybody until we had talked to the TSC and got their
24 concurrence to dispatch the team.

25 Q At what time was the OSC established or activated?

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1 A We got our first team I would say 9:20 because we
2 had activated -- it takes about 18 minutes to activate the
3 OSC.

4 Q So you're talking Central Standard time I assume?

5 A Yeah, I'm pretty sure that's correct. Ten o'clock
6 is the site -- this was Eastern and then we corrected it to
7 Central.

8 Q Or uncorrected it.

9 A Yes.

10 MR. TRAGER: That's a source of confusion I guess
11 sometimes?

12 THE WITNESS: Once you get into it, really it isn't.
13 Operations is totally used to working on Central Standard
14 time. There's no confusion factor for them. There really
15 is a confusion factor only that you're putting a different
16 time down. Once you get it established in your head, you
17 say yeah, I'm going to log everything consistent with
18 Central Standard time.

19 BY MR. LAZARUS:

20 Q The problems are in an emergency interfacing with
21 those local communities around a different time zone.

22 A Yes. We learn to live with it and it's not a real
23 problem for us.

24 Q You just have to remember to shift gears and that's
25 a big human factors problem.

1 A Yes.

2 Q Is there anything else you can share with us about
3 any problems you had in activating the OSC or any problems
4 in implementing the procedures, things you would do
5 differently?

6 A Well the only problem we had that we need to correct
7 on the OSC is the number of people. Since we activated when
8 we were on 12-hour shifts -- we typically are on an 8-hour
9 shift. The numbers of people we had because of the 12-hour
10 shift was much larger than we normally would have on an 8-
11 hour shift. The facility we have is not big enough for the
12 numbers of people we had available at the site who were
13 qualified people. We had to distribute them within the shop
14 and maintain control of them within the shop. The OSC
15 really encompasses the whole maintenance shop but the
16 actual OSC facility on the second floor is not big enough
17 for that numbers of people and that's one of the things that
18 we're going to have to work on, either having a subsequent
19 place to designate people within the OSC.

20 Q That's a common problem with OSCs having a separate
21 assembly area. A lot of people put it next to a cafeteria
22 or something like that where you have a place to store your
23 people until you need them.

24 A Yeah. We stored them down in the shop. We have a
25 fairly good sized maintenance shop so we were able to store

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1 the predominant number of people in the shop and it wasn't
2 really a problem, we'd just go downstairs if we needed
3 additional people. But just on the initial assembly in that
4 area, it's just too small for that particular application.

5 Q Did you experience or notice any confusion over the
6 announcements made regarding site area emergency and site
7 evacuation of non-essential personnel?

8 A Yes, I think there was some confusion in that area
9 where people weren't really sure to leave the plant. That
10 was one of our comments on one of the critique sheets.

11 Q People in the OSC?

12 A No, people in the OSC --

13 Q Knew they were supposed to be in there.

14 A -- knew where they were supposed to be. We also had
15 some additional contractors. Once we had activated the OSC
16 and had more or less stable conditions, we then dispatched
17 the rest of the contractors to the assembly area outside the
18 plant. It was identified and we assembled people in the
19 admin building parking lot and we sent all the additional
20 contractors to the admin building parking lot.

21 MR. TRAGER: You mentioned a critique sheet?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes. We send sheets to the emergency
23 planning group with our comments every time we have a drill
24 or -- hopefully we won't ever have another incident but we
25 send our critique sheets.

1 The last thing you do when you basically shut down
2 the OSC is you critique activity, what could have been
3 better, what could have -- what would we have done
4 differently if you had done it -- if you were doing it the
5 next time.

6 All in all, the OSC in my estimation was not
7 chaotic, it was pretty -- wasn't confusing at all.

8 MR. LAZARUS: I'm just checking to see if I have a
9 copy of your OSC log. If I don't, I'd like to get a copy.

10 THE WITNESS: I've got it right here. There's the
11 handwritten, I had it typed so people could actually read it
12 and that's what's on the top.

13 MR. LAZARUS: That's fine, it will help to try to
14 piece together a sequence of events. Can I keep this copy?

15 THE WITNESS: Yes.

16 MR. LAZARUS: Do you have anything else?

17 MR. TRAGER: No.

18 MR. LAZARUS: All right, we can go off the record.
19 Thank you very much.

20 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded at
21 4:15 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the attached proceedings before the
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the matter of:

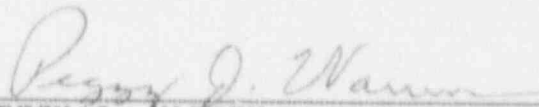
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record of the foregoing proceedings.



PEGGY J. WARREN
Official Reporter

Ann Riley & Associates

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