

# ORIGINAL

## 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  
50-446

Deposition of: John T. Blixt, Jr.

Location: Glen Rose, Texas

Pages: 57,000-57,076

Date: Wednesday, July 25, 1984

*TR 01/11*

*Original to E. Pleasant  
H-1149*

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY & LICENSING BOARD

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In the matter of:           :
                             :
TEXAS UTILITIES ELECTRIC    :
COMPANY, et al.             : Docket Nos. 50-445
                             : 50-446
(Comanche Peak Steam Electric :
Station, Units 1 and 2)     :
- - - - -x

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Glen Rose Motor Inn  
Glen Rose, Texas

July 25, 1984

Deposition of: JOHN T. BLIXT, JR.  
called by examination by counsel for Intervenor, CASE,  
taken before JAMES R. BURNS, Court Reporter,  
beginning at 10:09 a.m., pursuant to agreement.

## 1 APPEARANCES:

2 On behalf of the Applicant:

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C O N T E N T S

WITNESS

DIRECT CROSS REDIRECT RECROSS

John T. Blixt, Jr.      57004                      57071      57075

EXHIBITS

MARKED

RECEIVED

NONE

MILLERS FALLS  
ERASE  
COTTON CONTENT

## P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 Whereupon,

3 JOHN T. BLIXT, JR.

4 the deponent, having been first duly sworn, was examined and  
5 testified as follows:

6 MR. WATKINS: We'll go on the record.

7 My name is McNeill Watkins, counsel for  
8 Applicants in this proceedings.

9 This is the deposition of John T. Blixt.

10 And why don't counsel identify themselves?

11 MR. COPPOCK: My name is Jeff Coppock, I'm  
12 associated with the law firm of Vinson & Elkins, Houston.

13 I am appearing here today representing  
14 Mr. John T. Blixt, who is a Brown & Root employee.

15 For purposes of the record, I would like to note  
16 that Mr. Blixt is appearing here voluntarily without being  
17 under subpoena.

18 MS. GARDE: My name is Billie Garde, and I am a  
19 law clerk with Trial Lawyers for Public Justice; I represent  
20 Intervenor, CASE, in this matter.

21 MR. BACHMANN: I am Richard Bachmann, I am counsel  
22 for the NRC Staff.

23 MR. WATKINS: Ms. Garde, I assume we can proceed  
24 under the same rules regarding scope of examination as we  
25 did with Mr. Woodyard?

1 MS. GARDE: We can.

2 MR. WATKINS: Understood.

3 MS. GARDE: Okay.

4 Mr. Blixt, let me make a few introductory remarks  
5 to make sure that you understand:

6 I'm going to be asking you some questions about a  
7 specific incident involving Ms. Sue Ann Newmeyer. If at any  
8 time you don't understand my question, I want you to ask me to  
9 restate the question, or tell me you don't understand the  
10 question; and I will attempt to do so.

11 If at any time you want to confer with your counsel,  
12 please indicate on the record that you'd like to confer with  
13 your counsel; and you have the right to do that.

14 And if you don't raise any comments or questions  
15 I'll assume that you understood my questions and that your  
16 answer is complete to the best of your knowledge.

17 Do you understand that?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

19 MS. GARDE: Okay.

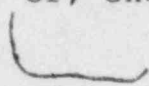
20 Mac, do you have any other opening remarks?

21 MR. WATKINS: No.

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MS. GARDE:

24 Q Mr. Blixt, will you state your name for the record,  
25 please?

- 1 A John T. Blixt, Jr.
- 2 Q Are you currently employed at Brown & Root?
- 3 A Yes, I am.
- 4 Q And in what capacity?
- 5 A QE Group Supervisor.
- 6 Q What does "QE" stand for?
- 7 A Quality Engineering.
- 8 Q Are you an engineer?
- 9 A No, I'm not a licensed engineer.
- 10 Q How long have you worked at Comanche Peak?
- 11 A Two years, two months -- or, excuse me, two years,  
12 two weeks. 
- 13 Q And have you always held this position of QE Group  
14 Supervisor?
- 15 A Yes, I have.
- 16 Q And where did you work before, immediately prior to  
17 this job?
- 18 A I was employed with Brown & Root in Houston.
- 19 Q And how long was that for?
- 20 A Eleven months.
- 21 Q And before that?
- 22 A Daniel International.
- 23 Q Was that at a nuclear plant?
- 24 A At Fermi.
- 25 Q Now, I asked you if you were an engineer, and you

1 said you were not a "licensed engineer," what is your  
2 educational background?

3 A High school education.

4 Q And through what certification or education do you  
5 claim to be an engineer of sorts?

6 I didn't understand your answer when you said  
7 you were not a "licensed engineer." What kind of engineer  
8 are you?

9 A A quality engineer.

10 Q Okay.

11 Could you explain to me what that is, please?

12 A Well, I'm not sure what the difference -- I mean,  
13 are you trying to say -- an engineer, a quality engineer,  
14 the duties and responsibilities?

15 Q Could you give me a summaries of those duties and  
16 responsibilities?

17 A What it basically entails is to do review of  
18 procedures, of in-process documentation, trending of non-  
19 conformances, things like this.

20 And basically the job entails for quality engineers  
21 to be familiar with the codes and standards and specifications.

22 Q And that doesn't require an engineering degree?

23 A No, ma'am, it doesn't.

24 Q Does it require certification?

25 A No, it doesn't require certification; you know, it's



1 based on experience in lieu of education. And that's a  
2 prerequisite.

3 Q Are you a certified inspector?

4 A I have been.

5 Q But you currently are not a certified inspector?

6 A No, ma'am.

7 Q In your current position you said that you were doing  
8 -- strike that.

9 I asked you to give me a brief description of your  
10 duties; the things that you described: trending, review of  
11 NCR's, being familiar with codes and standards, specifica-  
12 tions, are those the things that you're doing now?

13 A I'm not sure, the way you're asking the question --  
14 are you asking what is a quality engineer?

15 Q Um-huh, okay; right?

16 A My position right now is I'm actually in supervision  
17 over the quality engineering group.

18 Q Okay.

19 Could you explain briefly what that involves?

20 I want to understand, Mr. Blixt, what it is that  
21 you do out at the plant; and I don't understand it yet from  
22 any of your answers?

23 A All right.

24 I supervise, supervisor over the quality engineers.

25 Q How many.

1 A On the ASME side.

2 Presently, approximately six.

3 Q And what do your supervisory duties entail?

4 A Well, all personnel matters, you know, like,  
5 promotions, increases, things like this, evaluations.

6 Q Um-huh?

7 A If there's a procedure needs revised, the QE's are  
8 in the position to revise them. I'm also on the review of  
9 these procedures for, you know, all the changes made and so  
10 forth.

11 Q Is that all?

12 A There's numerous other things, when it comes to  
13 interfacing with the client, with NRC, ANI.

14 Q Are the QE's that you supervise certified?

15 A Yes, ma'am, they are.

16 Q And is your work in the ASME or the non-ASME area?

17 A ASME.

18 Q Has it always been ASME?

19 A Yes. At Comanche Peak, yes.

20 Q Were you aware that at Comanche Peak there was not  
21 always a split between ASME and non-ASME activities?

22 A Would you repeat the question, please?

23 Q Um-huh.

24 Do you want me to repeat the question, or do you want  
25 me to rephrase the question?

1 A Repeat it, I wasn't sure.

2 Q Okay.

3 Were you aware that at Comanche Peak there was not  
4 always ASME and non-ASME activities, that there was a split  
5 between those activities?

6 A Let me see if I've got this right:

7 Was I -- the question is, was I aware that at one  
8 time --

9 Q Yes?

10 A -- there were all under one group?

11 Q Yes?

12 A I became, you know, I found out about it.

13 Q Um-huh.

14 But during your entire period of employment --

15 A There's always been --

16 Q -- there's always been a split?

17 A Yes, ma'am.

18 Q Okay.

19 And who is your supervisor?

20 A Gordon Purdy.

21 Q Now, I said at the beginning of you, Mr. Blixt, that  
22 I was going to ask you some questions about an incident  
23 involving Ms. Sue Ann Newmeyer.

24 Do you know Ms. Newmeyer?

25 A I know Ms. Newmeyer; yes.

1 Q Do you know Mr. Dwight Woodyard?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Do you know Mr. Jim Ragan?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Do you know Mr. Billie Catness?

6 A I'm not familiar with him.

7 Q Do you know Mr. C. C. Randall?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Do you know Mr. Bob Siever?

10 A Um-huh, yes, I do.

11 Q Siever?

12 A Siever.

13 Q Now, are you a day shift employee or a night shift  
14 employee?

15 A Right now?

16 Q Right now?

17 A Day shift.

18 Q Have you always been day shift?

19 A No.

20 Q I'm not interested in a week-by-week change, if  
21 that's the kind of schedule change that you've had; but, I  
22 would like to know if you have ever worked on the night shift?

23 A In going with what you're saying, a week-by-week,  
24 it has been in that type frame; but it's not been a permanent  
25 assignment.

1 Q Have you ever been transferred to the night shift  
2 for several weeks at a time?

3 A No.

4 Q Have you ever been transferred to the night shift  
5 for a week at a time?

6 A I went back on it, yes.

7 Q What do you mean, you "went back"?

8 A Well, I wasn't actually transferred, but, what I was  
9 doing, I worked night shift.

10 Q So you had a specific task that you were finishing  
11 on the night shift?

12 A Yes, ma'am.

13 Q Do you remember when that was?

14 MR. WATKINS: Was it more than once?

15 THE WITNESS: There's been a couple times I've  
16 worked that.

17 BY MS. GARDE:

18 Q Okay.

19 Do you remember the rough time periods of those?  
20 Month and year would be -- ?

21 A I really don't recall at this time.

22 Q Now, I asked you a minute ago if you knew some people  
23 I named, five or six names?

24 A Um-huh.

25 Q I would like to know, to the best of your knowledge,

1 if they are day shift or night shift employees?

2 Mr. Bob Siever?

3 A Day.

4 MR. WATKINS: Excuse me. Are you asking him about  
5 presently?

6 Mr. GARDE: Presently.

7 BY MS. GARDE:

8 Q Mr. Billie Catness -- you said you didn't know;  
9 doesn't ring a bell.

10 A No.

11 Q Mr. C. C. Randall?

12 A I don't know, that's not ASME, and I'm not...

13 Q Okay.

14 Mr. Jim Ragan?

15 A Jim, he's no longer Brown & Root; so I don't know  
16 what he works.

17 Q Okay.

18 Now, -- I'm sorry, there's two other people I asked  
19 if you're familiar with:

20 Fred Evans?

21 A Yes, I know Fred.

22 Q I understand -- well, let me ask:

23 Do you know if Mr. Evans is still a current employee  
24 of Brown & Root?

25 A He's not an employee of Brown & Root.

- 1 Q Do you know how long he hasn't been an employee?
- 2 A No, ma'am, I don't.
- 3 Q Larry Wilkerson?
- 4 A Yes, he is.
- 5 Q He is currently an employee of Brown & Root?
- 6 A Yes, ma'am.
- 7 Q Is he, to the best of your knowledge, an ASME
- 8 inspector?
- 9 A Yes, ma'am.
- 10 Q He still is an ASME inspector?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q To the best of your knowledge, has he always been
- 13 an ASME inspector?
- 14 A I don't really know.
- 15 Q Have you discussed your testimony here today with
- 16 anyone?
- 17 A No, ma'am.
- 18 Q Your lawyer?
- 19 A No.
- 20 Just my lawyer, I guess.
- 21 Q You discussed it with anyone on the site?
- 22 A No.
- 23 Q Mr. Brandt?
- 24 A No.
- 25 Q Have you had an opportunity through your attorneys

1 to read an affidavit of Sue Ann Newmeyer, dated the 20th of  
2 March 1984?

3 A I have read a document.

4 MS. GARDE: Let the record reflect that the witness  
5 has been shown a copy of an affidavit of Ms. Newmeyer.

6 THE WITNESS: Yes.

7 BY MS. GARDE:

8 Q Have you read that document?

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q Did you find your name in that document anywhere?

11 A Yes, I believe I did.

12 Q I believe it's on page 5.

13 Now, there's an allegation by Ms. Newmeyer about  
14 an incident on which I'd like to ask you some questions about:

15 Did you ever do any work on the stainless steel  
16 liner plates? And by that, I know you do QE review --

17 A Not physical.

18 Q -- I know you do QE review; you don't -- I know you  
19 don't; you're not craft; you don't do any work.

20 Q Yes, ma'am.

21 Q And I understand you're not a QC inspector?

22 A Yes.

23 MR. WATKINS: Just to clarify for the record, the  
24 stainless steel line. plates in the spent fuel pool?

25 MS. GARDE: In the spent fuel pool.



1 BY MS. GARDE:

2 Q Did you ever have any occasion to review any work  
3 on the stainless steel liner plates of the spent fuel pool?  
4 -- that go inside the spent fuel pool?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q When would that have been?

7 A It was last year. I'm not sure of the date,  
8 specifically.

9 Q Sometime in 1983?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q And what did you do in connection with the stainless  
12 steel liner plates of the spent fuel pool?

13 A Could you --

14 Q Well, you're a QE reviewer, a QE Supervisor; were you  
15 a QE Supervisor at the time that you did the work?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q So what, to the best of your recollection, did you do  
18 or review or have reason to do something with the stainless  
19 steel liner plates in the spent fuel pool?

20 A We looked at the records of fabrication.

21 Q Who is "we"?

22 A Myself and C. C. Randall.

23 Q And you looked at the records --

24 A Of fabrication.

25 Q Okay.

1 I'm not an engineer, either.

2 (Laughter)

3 So I want you to explain to me what records of  
4 fabrication are?

5 A They would be the in-process documents filled out  
6 to show, you know, what fabrication sequences took place.

7 Q And that is in-process fabrication, is that work  
8 done by craft?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And that would be the actual fabrication of the liner  
11 plates?

12 A Um-huh.

13 Q Would they be fabricated on-site?

14 A The time frame, I'm not sure, it was work that had  
15 previously been done.

16 Q Um-huh.

17 A All right?

18 And then the work was done as far as I can best  
19 recollect; everything was done there.

20 Q On the site?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q So you said it was work that was previously done?

23 A Yes, ma'am.

24 Q So the craft work that you were reviewing in 1983  
25 had been done sometime prior to that, the actual fabrication

1 of the plates?

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q And is it your testimony that you and Mr. Randall  
4 were reviewing the fabrication documents?

5 A Yes, ma'am, we were.

6 Q And you can't recall any closer to a month, other  
7 than it was last year?

8 A A lot has transpired since then in the time frame.

9 Q I appreciate how things begin to run together.

10 (Laughter)

11 Witnesses...

12 MR. WATKINS: This is Mr. Blixt.

13 (Laughter)

14 BY MS. GARDE:

15 Q Now, I have two questions on the actual fabrication  
16 of the liner plates, which you may or may not recall, based  
17 on your reviewing of the documents.

18 But do you recall based on that review that you and  
19 Mr. Randall did in 1983, when the fabrication took place?

20 A Not a specific date, because it was, like, an  
21 ongoing time frame.

22 Q Could it have been the late seventies, '78, '79?

23 A I have no recollection of the date.

24 Q Okay.

25 You just don't recall?

1 A No.

2 Q That's not what you were looking at?

3 A No.

4 Q The dates.

5 Okay, what specifically to the best of your recollection were you and Mr. Randall reviewing? What were you looking at?

8 A The completeness of the records.

9 Q Can you explain to me what "completeness of records" means?

11 A that, you know -- filled out in its entirety.

12 Q Now, when you say "filled out in its entirety,"  
13 I'm sure you understand your testimony; but I don't believe I  
14 understand your testimony on this -- not because you're not  
15 being frank; it's because I'm not an engineer and I don't  
16 work on the site.

17 So my familiarity with what the terms mean is going  
18 to take a couple of more questions for me to get at, get as  
19 complete an understanding.

20 MR. WATKINS: Just ask him what "it" is.

21 MS. GARDE: What "it" is?

22 MR. WATKINS: To see that "it" is filled out completely; why don't you ask what "it" is?

24 MS. GARDE: Well, does "it" refer to a package,  
25 documents?

1 THE WITNESS: "It" being a document, like a  
2 traveller, something like that.

3 BY MS. GARDE:

4 Q Okay.

5 Now, there's been -- you were looking at specifi-  
6 cally travellers, or does "it" refer to more than travellers,  
7 regarding this?

8 A Basically, travellers.

9 Q And how many travellers did you and "C. C." look  
10 at?

11 A The total number, I don't recall, exactly.  
12 We looked at everything that was there.

13 Q Okay.

14 Was it five?

15 A Oh, no. It, you know -- I don't know a specific  
16 number, you know; if I could say it was 100 and be sure in my  
17 own mind it was exactly 100, I would say that. But I don't  
18 recall the exact number.

19 Q Okay.

20 I would like to kind of get a sense of how many  
21 there was:

22 Was there 500 travellers?

23 A I'm really sorry, you know, I just can't, you know --  
24 if I could say specifically, I would.

25 Q Okay.

1 Well, let me ask you this: how long did you and  
2 Mr. Randall look at these travellers?

3 A We interfaced on them, I think there was about  
4 three nights.

5 Q So Mr. Randall was on the nights at that time, also?

6 A Yes.

7 Q What does it mean when you say you and Mr. Randall  
8 "interfaced" on this?

9 A Well, we were reviewing them, we looked at them.

10 Q Um-huh.

11 A And --

12 Q And you were looking at -- for the completeness of  
13 the records, of the travellers?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Were they complete?

16 A No, there was a line entry on some where the  
17 inspector had failed -- just didn't sign-off a step on his  
18 final VT.

19 Q He had failed to sign that off?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Was that a problem?

22 A At that time because there were supporting documen-  
23 tation; no.

24 Q Is a traveller a control document?

25 A It's -- well, if you can rephrase the question.

1 Q I'll try to rephrase the question.

2 Is a traveller a permanent document?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q Do travellers go in the permanent plant records  
5 vault?

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q Do travellers have individual numbers?

8 A Normally they do.

9 Q Do travellers sinclude the complonent number that it  
10 is travelling about?

11 A Yes, it references the number.

12 Q Now, I asked you before if a traveller was a control  
13 document; and you asked me to restate the question. I  
14 apologize but I can't think of a different way to ask that  
15 question.

16 So let me ask you to explain what your misunderstand-  
17 ing is about the question, what is confusing about my question?

18 A Well, the terminology "control", I guess.

19 Q And what about the terminology "control,"  
20 is confusing you in regard to travellers?

21 A Well, I associate the term "controls" under a  
22 circumstance, possibly, where it's got it stamped, and,  
23 you know.

24 Q Um-huh.

25 A They are a document that controls the work

1 activities for the item, and they were issued specifically.

2 Q Okay.

3 I think I understand now your misunderstanding.

4 So let me ask this:

5 Are travellers stamped with control numbers,  
6 for instance, a satellite number?

7 A No, ma'am.

8 Q Okay.

9 But travellers are permanent documents?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q Okay.

12 Now, you said that you and Mr. Randall were  
13 reviewing a number of travellers over a three-night period,  
14 looking for completeness of the records; that some of them  
15 were missing signatures on the final VT.

16 Are those the only blanks on the travellers that  
17 you found?

18 A That is all we discovered.

19 Q Now, you said that there was supporting documen-  
20 tation?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q So that there wasn't a serious problem?

23 A No. It could be corrected.

24 Q What was that supporting documentation?

25 A An inspection chit.



1 Q And what is an inspection chit?

2 A The -- let me clarify one thing:

3 Q Yes?

4 A When that program was in effect, I wasn't involved  
5 with it; but to explain what a chit is --

6 Q Um-huh.

7 A -- it was a method of showing that the  
8 inspection had been witnessed by a QC inspector.

9 Q Um-huh?

10 A And they gave the crafts person one copy of that;  
11 and they also collected one copy in the records.

12 Q Chits aren't being used now, are they?

13 A No, ma'am.

14 Q They weren't being used two years ago, were they?

15 A No, ma'am, not when I came.

16 Q And you said that there was inspection chits that  
17 were backing-up the travellers, the blank spots on the  
18 travellers?

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 Q Could you describe what a chit looks like?

21 A Honestly, at this time, I couldn't, without seeing  
22 one, or, you know?

23 Q Is it an 8-by-12 piece of paper?

24 A As best it was very, you know, small.

25 Q Three-by-five?

1 A No. I'm not sure, you know.

2 Q Okay.

3 A I know it was small.

4 Q Did it have a control number on it?

5 A Not to the best of my knowledge.

6 Q Was it a permanent record?

7 A At the time it was utilized, I believe it was.  
8 It was a substantiating record.

9 Q What information did the chit have on it?

10 A The inspector that performed the activity, the  
11 date, the -- at this time I'm not sure of everythign else  
12 that was there.

13 Q Maybe the component number?

14 A It was possible the weld or the item number was  
15 there, too; I'm not sure.

16 Q And how were they attached to the traveller?

17 MR. WATKINS: I'll object to the form of your  
18 question.

19 MS. GARDE: Okay.

20 BY MS. GARDE:

21 Q Were they attached to the traveller?

22 A I'm not sure at this time.

23 Q When you and Mr. Randall were working, interfacing,  
24 with these travellers, you were reviewing them for complete-  
25 ness. Were you also reviewing the chits?

1 A No, ma'am.

2 Q You don't recall if the chits were attached to the  
3 travellers?

4 A Not at this time, ma'am.

5 Q Okay.

6 Now, your testimony was -- and I'm not the best  
7 note-taker, so we can have the court reporter read it back  
8 if you're not -- if you don't feel like I'm accurately restat-  
9 ing your answers:

10 When I asked if it was a serious problem that there  
11 was not a signature where the inspector had failed to do his  
12 VIT, or failed to sign-off the VT, -- it's that it wasn't a  
13 serious problem because of supporting documentation; which you  
14 have now described was the chit?

15 A That's right.

16 Q I'm trying to understand, Mr. Blixt, how the chit  
17 alleviated the problem if they weren't attached?

18 A Corresponding number for the item.

19 Q So there was a corresponding number on the chit?

20 A As best, you know, like I said, previously, you  
21 know, it's been some time ago.

22 Q I understand that.

23 A And I would think, you know, as I sat here and  
24 thought about it, that the corresponding number would have  
25 been there.

1 Q Okay.

2 Now, I want you to try to remember this incident  
3 in as much detail as possible.

4 A Um-huh.

5 Q And I want you to try to remember if when you and  
6 Mr. Randall began this assignment, if the chits were in a  
7 separate pile or box or -- separate from the travellers?

8 A As I can remember, the, you know, the packages  
9 and their completeness of them, I'd say, you know, when we had  
10 them all together, whether the chits were attached, I'm not  
11 sure, like I said; but they were there with the, you know,  
12 the documented traveller.

13 Q Does your -- when you said they were "there," --

14 A In other words, they were part of the package,  
15 and I'm not sure if they were in a folder with the travellers  
16 or, you know; but they were there with the entire documenta-  
17 tion.

18 Q Um-huh.

19 Did each traveller have a package that it was  
20 attached to?

21 A I don't recall.

22 Q So you don't remember if, when you and Mr. Randall  
23 were working on the documents, if you were just working with  
24 the travellers, or if you were working with the whole package?

25 A Well, we had, you know, numerous ones; and --

1 Q You had numerous what?

2 A Documentation, I mean, the travelers.

3 Q Okay.

4 I know the traveller is one piece of paper?

5 A Yes.

6 Q I also understand that there are packages; okay?

7 Let me ask, again, if you recall if the traveller  
8 was attached to the entire package of documents?

9 MR. WATKINS: To try to clarify what you're asking,  
10 if he has a folder, and it says, this is for spent fuel pool  
11 wall, whatever --

12 MS. GARDE: Um-huh?

13 MR. WATKINS: There might have been 15 or 20  
14 travellers there.

15 MS. GARDE: Um-huh?

16 THE WITNESS: And I don't recall if, you know, like  
17 I said, --

18 MS. GARDE: Um-huh?

19 THE WITNESS: -- if those chits and the rest of the  
20 things were in a separate little folder with those, you know,  
21 in its entirety.

22 MS. GARDE: Um-huh.

23 THE WITNESS: All right?

24 I don't know if that answers your question.

25 MS. GARDE: I don't think you remember.

1 BY MS. GARDE:

2 Q Now, you said that you and Mr. Randall spent three  
3 nights reviewing these travellers. You're sure it was three  
4 nights?

5 A There was three evenings that we interfaced on this  
6 item.

7 Q Okay.

8 Did you work on them the entire evening, is this an  
9 entire eight-hour shift?

10 A No.

11 Q How many hours per evening?

12 A I don't know, you know.

13 Q Okay.

14 Now, where did this interface with Mr. Randall and  
15 these documents take place; in what building?

16 A It took place in his office, and it took place in  
17 my office, you know, different times we'd get together on it.

18 Q And where was the documentation stored when you  
19 weren't working on it?

20 A With Mr. Randall.

21 Q Now, when you were reviewing for the travellers and  
22 the chits, did you do anything to the documents?

23 A No.

24 Q Who assigned you to look at the travellers and the  
25 chits?

1 A There was not an assignment made.

2 Q For what reason did you do it?

3 A At the request of C. C. Randall.

4 Q This review of the spent fuel pool liner plates  
5 traveller documentation, would be in his area of responsi-  
6 bility?

7 A Yes.

8 Q What is Mr. Randall?

9 A Non-ASME, you know, person; what his title is right  
10 now, I don't know.

11 Q Were the liner plates considered non-ASME?

12 A I believe they were.

13 Q Was the fuel pool itself considered non-ASME?

14 A I believe they were; I'm not sure.

15 Q Did you and Mr. Randall discuss at all the problem  
16 of the missing signatures?

17 A Yes.

18 Q What did you discuss about the missing signatures?

19 A A way to possibly address the situation for  
20 correction.

21 Q Did you discuss several options?

22 A I believe there was, you know, more than one.

23 Q To the best of your recollection, would you tell me  
24 what options you discussed with Mr. Randall as to their  
25 disposition?

- 1 A To go back and do a thorough review of the record.
- 2 Q What does that mean?
- 3 A To go back and look at all the documentation to see  
4 if there was a substantiating documentation as to it being  
5 completed.
- 6 Q Besides the chits?
- 7 A If there was any other.
- 8 Q Well, what others ones?
- 9 A The issuance of nonconformance reports.
- 10 Q On each of them?
- 11 A If there was any, yes.
- 12 Q If there was any substantiating documentation?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q Okay.
- 15 What else?
- 16 That basically was the, you know, the plan.
- 17 Q And what did you decide to do?
- 18 A To do the record review in its entirety, and to,  
19 if there was substantiating evidence that the point had been  
20 signed-off, to show a late entry on the document.
- 21 Q What is "late entry"?
- 22 A Well, you could make an asterisk and show it  
23 "late entry," and then have it signed and dated by an  
24 inspector.
- 25 Q You'd put an asterisk in?



1 A Yes, ma'am.

2 That would identify that it is a late entry, and  
3 then have it signed and dated.

4 Q That's what you decided to do.

5 Is that what you did?

6 A Yuh.

7 Q Did you do that?

8 A No, ma'am, I didn't.

9 Q Did Mr. Randall do that?

10 A No, ma'am, he did not.

11 Q Do you know who did it?

12 A At this time, Sue Ann Newmeyer did it.

13 Q What do you mean, "at this time"?

14 A Well --

15 Q You mean this incident that we're talking about?

16 A What we're talking about here; yes.

17 Q And how do you know if she did it?

18 A By her signature on the document.

19 Q Did you see Ms. Newmeyer doing it?

20 A Yes, ma'am, I did.

21 Q What location was she working at when she was doing  
22 this?

23 A Millwright fab shop.

24 Q Did you talk to her?

25 A Yes, ma'am.

1 Q Did you talk about this assignment?

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q What did she tell you?

4 A Well, I asked her if she had any questions or con-  
5 cerns on the thing, as to what we were doing.

6 Q Um-huh.

7 What did she say?

8 A Well, she understood where we were at, what we were  
9 doing.

10 Q That's all she said?

11 A The best that I can recall.

12 Q Who did Ms. Newmeyer work for at the time?

13 A I believe it was Dwight Woodyard.

14 Q Did Mr. Woodyard, as her supervisor, have to approve  
15 her working on this assignment?

16 A Well, yuh.

17 Q Did you talk to Mr. Woodyard about Ms. Newmeyer's  
18 working on this assignment?

19 A When it started down, you know, the assignment, I  
20 asked Dwight for an inspector to help me in this effort.

21 Q Um-huh.

22 A And he provided me with Ms. Newmeyer.

23 Q Did you explain the assignment to Ms. Newmeyer?

24 A Yes, I believe I discussed it with her.

25 Q Was Mr. Randall present?

1 A No, he wasn't.

2 Q Was Mr. Woodyard present?

3 A I don't believe he was.

4 Q Was Mr. Siever present?

5 A No.

6 Q Was Mr. Ragan present?

7 A No, he wasn't.

8 Q You say you don't know who Billy Catness was.

9 Was there an unknown person present?

10 A No.

11 Q If you can recall, Mr. Blixt, can you recount for me  
12 your explaining the assignment to Ms. Newmeyer?

13 A I explained with the documents what the objective  
14 was, based on the substantiation with another document, that  
15 being the chit, that the item had been looked at; and we'd  
16 show it as a late entry; and if there was any that didn't have  
17 supporting documentation, that we would write an NCR.

18 Q Did Ms. Newmeyer say anything?

19 A She acknowledged what the task was, yuh, her  
20 understanding of it.

21 Q She didn't raise any questions?

22 A Not to my knowledge, at that time.

23 Q Do you recall Ms. Newmeyer ever voicing a concern  
24 to you about the chits not being about the liner plates?

25 A No.

1 Q Do you ever recall Ms. Newmeyer showing you a  
2 drawing on the wall of the millwright fab shop? Blueprint,  
3 where she believed the chit signature indicated inspection  
4 had been done?

5 A No.

6 Q Do you recall whether or not there was blueprints  
7 of this spent fuel pool stainless steel liner plate?

8 A Yes, there was.

9 Q Were they on the wall of the millwright shop?

10 A Not to the best of my recollection.

11 Q Were they on a wall anywhere, do you recall?

12 A Not that I recall.

13 Q You don't recall Ms. Newmeyer ever raising those  
14 questions?

15 A No.

16 Q Do you recall Ms. Newmeyer suggesting you call  
17 Mr. Wilkerson to verify what was the chit signature indicated  
18 had been inspected?

19 A No.

20 Q Ms. Newmeyer was provided to you by her supervisor  
21 to work on this assignment; and then you explained the  
22 assignment.

23 Prior to your explanation of the assignment, are  
24 you aware of anyone else explaining the assignment to her?

25 A No.

1 Q Do you remember what day of the week it was?

2 A I don't; I'm sorry.

3 Q Was it immediately following you and Mr. Randall  
4 spending three days reviewing, interfacing, the travellers  
5 and the chits?

6 A It was very close, you know, in that proximity;  
7 yes.

8 Q Do you recall why you and Mr. Randall were doing  
9 that particular assignment at that time -- why it couldn't  
10 wait till later?

11 A Well, "C. C." had come to me and said that, you know,  
12 he had -- he didn't know what to do at this point. He was  
13 responsible for that work on the non-ASME side. And explained  
14 the situation, and we went through it.

15 Q Um-huh.

16 A I don't remember the urgency.

17 Q Um-huh.

18 You don't remember that there was a due date for  
19 those documents?

20 A No, ma'am.

21 Q To be somewhere else?

22 Now, you talked to Ms. Newmeyer, you testified that  
23 you talked to Ms. Newmeyer while she was working on the  
24 assignment; and she didn't indicate any questions or concerns?

25 A Right.

1 Q And that you, yourself, explained the assignment to  
2 her?

3 A Told her what we were doing.

4 Q And you did that alone. There was nobody else,  
5 no witnesses to that explanation?

6 A As best that I can recall it.

7 Q Um-huh.

8 Do you recall anyone saying to Ms. Newmeyer that  
9 she had to have them done by Monday morning?

10 A No, ma'am.

11 Q Do you recall the assignment had to be due by  
12 Monday morning?

13 A No.

14 Q Did you tell her it had to be done by Monday morning?

15 A Not to my best recollection, I didn't.

16 Q Did Jim Ragan ever talk to you about this assign-  
17 ment of Ms. Newmeyer?

18 A No.

19 Q Did any of the individuals that we're discussing  
20 here, Mr. Randall, Mr. Ragan, Mr. Siever, or Mr. Woodyard,  
21 say to Ms. Newmeyer that she was going to sign those documents  
22 off, if it took all weekend?

23 A No, ma'am, I don't.

24 Q Was Ms. Newmeyer the only one working on those  
25 documents?

1           A     I'm not really sure. At the time I was interfacing,  
2           yes; that's the only person I saw working on them.

3           Q     Do you remember Mr. Fred Evans working on those  
4           documents?

5           A     I don't recall him working on them. It's feasible,  
6           he might have.

7           Q     Mr. Evans would have had the same instructions  
8           to asterisk after his name, and --

9           A     To substantiate, yes.

10          Q     And "late entry"?

11                     Do you know if anybody has pulled those documents,  
12          and reviewed them in preparation for this testimony?

13          A     No.

14          Q     Have you gone down to the vault and looked at those  
15          documents?

16          A     No, ma'am.

17          Q     Are you aware if anybody has gone down to the vault  
18          and looked at those documents?

19          A     No.

20          Q     Now, I want to go back to talking about the chits  
21          a little bit more, and then I'll be done; and you can go on  
22          with your life!

23                     (Laughter)

24          MR. WATKINS: You mean you'll end your questioning?

25          MS. GARDE: Um-huh.

1 BY MS. GARDE:

2 Q The chit is not in use now, that form; I think your  
3 testimony earlier was that they were used some time prior to  
4 your arriving on the site?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q And that there was two copies of the chit: craft  
7 got one, and the inspector kept one?

8 A I'm not -- you know, if I said two, I'm not sure if  
9 it was two, you know.

10 Q Okay.

11 A You know, in my mind I'm going with, craft would  
12 receive one, and the inspector had one; and it could have been  
13 three copies.

14 Q You have no personal knowledge of the use of the  
15 chits?

16 A No, ma'am.

17 Q You saw them or heard about them after you arrived  
18 on the site?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And your understanding of the use of the chit was  
21 that it indicated an inspection had been performed?

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q Do you have any knowledge about why a chit was used  
24 instead of a hold point signed off?

25 A Let me ask, or let me clarify something: is your



1 question, why did the inspector use the chit?

2 A Yes.

3 Let me ask that: why did the inspector use the chit?

4 A Well, the chit was probably procedurally required  
5 and whether or not at that moment, you know, and I'm -- I would  
6 have to say, hypothetically, if that traveller wasn't exactly  
7 right here, maybe it was at the top of the pool or something,  
8 he entered this chit; and then just forgot to sign. I'm not  
9 sure.

10 Q What procedure would have included or incorporated  
11 the use of a chit?

12 A I don't really know, because it was, like I said  
13 before, I wasn't here.

14 Q You work with procedures now?

15 A Yes, ma'am, I work with procedures.

16 Q Would it have been an inspection procedure?

17 A Possibly.

18 Q What other kind of procedure could it have been?

19 MR. WATKINS: Objection, he's testified he doesn't  
20 know whether it was even procedurally prescribed.

21 MS. GARDE: Well, I want to try and find out if this  
22 witness has any knowledge about what inspection or what  
23 procedures it would have been a part of; if he works with  
24 procedures now, he'd have some idea of how inspections are  
25 performed, and some idea --

1 MR. WATKINS: I'll object on the ground you're  
2 asking him to speculate.

3 MS. GARDE: Can the witness answer the question,  
4 noting your objection.

5 MR. WATKINS: Would you like to speculate,  
6 Mr. Blixt?

7 (Laughter)

8 THE WITNESS: I don't know, if you could ask the  
9 question again in a way -- maybe I could answer it for you?

10 MS. GARDE: Okay.

11 BY MS. GARDE:

12 Q I understand you don't have any personal knowledge  
13 of the chits, the development of the chits?

14 A That's right.

15 Q You did say that you think it was procedurally --  
16 required by procedures? Or provided for in procedures?

17 A It would presumably be.

18 Q It would presumably be?

19 A Um-hun.

20 Q A QC inspector was the one who signed the chit?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q I assume, and you correct me if you think I'm wrong,  
23 because we are both somewhat speculative here, since we don't  
24 know what these chits are all about -- I assume that it would  
25 be an inspection procedure; is that a wrong assumption?

1           Could it be a craft procedure?

2           A     It could have been. it could have been an inspection  
3 procedure, or possibly even a craft.

4           Q     Okay.

5                     If it was an inspection procedure, what number series  
6 of procedures, if you can name inspection procedure number  
7 that covers the spent fuel pool liner plates?

8           MR. WATKINS:  Objection.

9                     You are asking -- you are really asking him to  
10 guess.

11                    This is a discovery question.  This is a discovery  
12 question.  It's not an evidentiary question.

13                    He's testified he doesn't even know whether it was  
14 procedurally defined.

15           MS. GARDE:  I'll concede that it's a discovery  
16 question.

17                    But I would like if he can answer the question, to  
18 get closer to some procedure other than this just very vague,  
19 "it may have been a part of some procedure" at the site.

20                    I would appreciate an answer.

21           MR. WATKINS:  It seems to me the best way for you to  
22 go about that is to file an interrogatory, if you want to.

23           MS. GARDE:  Well, if the witness can answer the  
24 question, it would be much more convenient for the witness to  
25 answer the question.

1           If he can't answer the question, he can't answer the  
2 question.

3           THE WITNESS: I really can't answer the question.

4           MS. GARDE: All right. I want to continue to ask  
5 the question!

6           (Laughter)

7           BY MS. GARDE:

8           Q       When you were reviewing with Mr. Randall the  
9 documentation and the chits, looking for missing signatures,  
10 was there an effort made to verify that the chits matched  
11 the spent fuel pool liner plates?

12          A       To substantiate?

13          Q       No.

14          A       I'm sorry.

15          Q       To ensure that the chits matched, the chits indicated  
16 an inspection had been done? That's what it was supposed to  
17 indicate, is that correct?

18          A       Yes.

19          Q       And the traveller went with the specific plate,  
20 is that correct?

21          A       As far as I remember, yes.

22          Q       Was there an effort made by either you or  
23 Mr. Randall to verify that the chit was about the inspection of  
24 the installation of the plate?

25                 I am asking if you made any effort to verify

1 that, so that you know that it is accurate?

2 A At that time, no.

3 Q Have you since then?

4 A No, that's what the inspectors were doing, you know.

5 Q Are you saying that's what Ms. Newmeyer was doing?

6 A Yes. She was doing the physical verification of  
7 the chit to the activity.

8 Q And you don't recall Ms. Newmeyer ever pointing out  
9 to you that she didn't believe they matched the activity?

10 A No, ma'am. If she would have, she would have wrote  
11 an NCR.

12 MS. GARDE: No further questions.

13 Let's take a recess.

14 (Recess.)

15 END TLJRB:  
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MR. BACHMANN: I think we can go back on the record now.

BY MR. BACHMANN:

Q Good morning, Mr. Blixt.

Although the Staff usually goes last in its questioning, previous depositions have given me the experience that by my going after Ms. Garde, it appears to expedite the matters, and so I'll ask you my questions now.

I would like to understand, I guess, the extent of your involvement on these travelers and the signoff of the travelers.

You were a QE group supervisor in the ASME area, correct?

A Yes, sir.

Q Now, there has been previous testimony, and I don't think you've contradicted it, that the spent fuel pool was a non-ASME area; is that correct?

A As far as I know.

Q How did you get involved in doing these since it appears not to have been within your regular duties?

A The-- C. C. Randall came to me and asked for assistance.

The time frame, I don't know if it was

1 under-- you know, before an organization split, you know,  
2 non-ASME versus ASME. And, you know, he just came to me  
3 with the problem, you know. Gee, I don't know what to do  
4 type thing. Can I get some assistance?

5 Q Okay.

6 Based on that, when did your involvement  
7 in this end? In this particular set of travelers.

8 A Once it was-- you know, the plan was agreed  
9 on, you know, we went back and reviewed. And I just  
10 really stepped back out of the picture.

11 Q Would you say that would be at the point  
12 after which you would explain what to do to Susie Neumeyer?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q And then, after that, you had no further  
15 involvement in these particular travelers.

16 A No, sir.

17 Q Why would Susie Neumeyer be the person to  
18 sign off on these travelers?

19 A That was just the inspector that was given  
20 to me.

21 Q Let me rephrase it.

22 A Go ahead.

23 Q Let me rephrase the question.

24 Was it necessary for a QC inspector to  
25 sign off on the travelers?

1 A It would have been, yes.

2 Q Now, when you gave Susie the instructions  
3 for signing off on the travelers, I think you testified  
4 before that you told her to put an asterisk to indicate  
5 a late entry;--

6 A Uh-huh.

7 Q --is that correct?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q Did you say anything to her or indicate  
10 anything to her that a-- the words "per specification"  
11 should be put on the traveler to indicate the late entry  
12 or somehow let someone know that it was a late entry?

13 A The asterisk was to make-- you know, that  
14 would be the indicator. And generally, you know, when a  
15 person has to correct the document, it shows, you know:  
16 Clarifier. Late entry.

17 Q So, the asterisk would then correspond to,  
18 let's say, an asterisk at the bottom of the paper, and  
19 then after that, it would say "late entry" at the bottom?

20 A It could.

21 Q Would it say any other words, besides  
22 "late entry"?

23 I'm talking about these particular travelers.

24 A Not to my knowledge.

25 Q You were asked questions earlier and answered



1           them, and I just want to clarify at this point.

2                           Was there any indication given to you later  
3 on,-- And when I say, "later on", after your instructions  
4 to Susie Neumeyer. --that there was problems with  
5 correlating the chits with the travelers?

6           A           Nothing was talked about this.

7           Q           Earlier in this deposition, Ms. Garde  
8 referred you to the affidavit of Susie Neumeyer, which was  
9 dated March 20, 1984 and asked if you had read it; is that  
10 correct?

11          A           Yes, sir.

12          Q           Further on in that affidavit, subsequent to  
13 Ms. Neumeyer's statements about the travelers and the  
14 chits, your name appears again. And this is in reference  
15 to a meeting held in January of 1984 concerning an NCR.

16                       Do you recall having seen that in the  
17 affidavit?

18          A           Yes, sir.

19          Q           Do you recall a meeting that you attended  
20 with Susie Neumeyer present concerning an NCR in January  
21 of '84?

22          A           Yes, sir.

23          Q           Do you recall what date it was?

24          A           No, sir, I don't.

25          Q           Do you recall who was present at that meeting

1 besides yourself and Ms. Neumeyer?

2 A To the best of my recollection, it was  
3 Bob Siever, Terry Metheny, Jack Stanford, Dwight Woodyard,  
4 Susie Neumeyer, and myself.

5 Q Okay. Why were you attending that meeting?

6 A In order to resolve or to find out what  
7 the problem was with this NCR.

8 Q Let me see if I can ask the question so  
9 that we can get a prompt answer here.

10 As far as the chain of command or responsi-  
11 bilities out at the site, how were you connected with this  
12 NCR?

13 A The NCR office is under my direction, I  
14 guess. Or, you know, they fall under me.

15 And they post all the open NCR's. And as  
16 I go through them, you know, I'm looking for just items  
17 that possibly are in QC why they're not closed, or what  
18 the-- you know, why is there an open item holding. Things  
19 like that.

20 Q Did you ask to attend the meeting?

21 A I asked to call a meeting with Bob. I  
22 discussed it with Bob to the fact that, hey, I've got an  
23 open NCR that it uoesn't look like there's anything moving  
24 on this thing. Why?

25 Q So, then, it's your understanding that Mr.

1 Siever called the meeting at your suggestion?

2 A I would say that would be a true statement.

3 Q You just said, also, that you saw the list  
4 and it appeared this NCR had been open for a while.

5 Is there a particular amount of time that  
6 one should not be closed? Or, could you kind of explain  
7 what you meant by that? Why did this come to your attention?

8 A When I receive a printout on the NCR's that  
9 are currently open, if there's something in the quality  
10 house or arena, whether it be with QCI or QE's or whatever,  
11 that has the action in it, these should be, you know,  
12 resolved and expedited on getting closed, or addressed  
13 at least. Who has the action and why?

14 You know, I saw it. And I said, you know,  
15 "Gee, I don't understand it. Let's get the players  
16 together." I explained it to Bob, and we proceeded from  
17 there.

18 Q Did you personally participate in the  
19 discussion of that meeting?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q Could you describe the extent of your  
22 personal participation, what did you say and to whom,  
23 please?

24 A I don't recall my exact words or, you know,  
25 how the thing went. But it was to the effect, you know,

1 here's the NCR. What are we trying to say?

2 And when you read the NCR, it was confusing.  
3 Or, it confused me.

4 Susie explained, you know, why she initiated  
5 the NCR. All right.

6 Q At the time of the meeting, and to the best  
7 of your recollection, what did Ms. Neumeyer-- what was  
8 her explanation at the time of the meeting?

9 A That she wrote the NCR after she had brought  
10 it to the attention of her supervisor, that it appeared  
11 that there was some inconsistency with the well data,  
12 and that was her explanation.

13 Q So, this was-- You essentially opened the  
14 meeting; is that correct? By presenting asking the question  
15 as to what the NCR was all about?

16 A Well, yeah. It was a-- You know, a lot has  
17 transpired.

18 Q Sure.

19 A But when the meeting went down, at that time,  
20 it was explained why everyone was gathered there.

21 Q Who made that explanation?

22 A I think Bob and I both made the explanation.

23 Q Okay.

24 A As to, you know, we're trying to resolve,  
25 you know, why this NCR was initiated and what we need to

1 do to, you know, to either correct it or find out what  
2 is taking place with it.

3 Q And then Miss Neumeyer-- I think you just  
4 said Miss Neumeyer then explained why she had written it?

5 A Right.

6 Q And then, who spoke or who reacted? Can  
7 you recall how the conversation went?

8 A I really don't recall how the conversation  
9 played out as to, you know, who took it from there or  
10 what. It was, more or less, an information type meeting  
11 that, you know, Susie wrote this and what is the situation,  
12 what do we have to do right now.

13 Q And I think everyone was, you know, talking  
14 not at once, but, you know, each person would add something  
15 to it.

16 Q Do you recall how the discussion resolved  
17 itself as to what would be done with the NCR?

18 A The way the meeting concluded was they  
19 were going to-- And when I say "they", being Terry Metheny  
20 and Jack Stanford were to provide copies of the PT reports,  
21 and based on that, substantiating that, yes, the PT was done  
22 and on this date and so forth, then the NCR would probably  
23 be voided.

24 Q But we needed that to substantiate it.

25 Q So, the understanding was that it would

1 "probably be voided"? And I use that term carefully.

2 A If there was substantiating evidence that,  
3 yes. You know, and the document would speak for itself.

4 Q What was your impression of Ms. Neumeyer's  
5 reaction to this end-of-meeting discussion, end-of-meeting  
6 resolution?

7 A Everyone was asked, you know, if they  
8 understood what we were talking about and, you know, was  
9 the resolution-- did anyone have problem with it.

10 And we went right around the room and asked,  
11 and no one had a problem with it.

12 Q So, the decision had not been made at the  
13 meeting at that time to void the NCR. Only to await the  
14 return of the NDE reports; is that correct?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q Excuse me. The reports, you're saying,  
17 could they be referred to as NDE's?

18 A NDE reports, yes, sir.

19 Q Do you recall, at any time during the  
20 meeting, yelling at Susie Neumeyer?

21 A No.

22 Q Do you recall anyone at that meeting yelling  
23 at Susie Neumeyer?

24 A Not to my recollection.

25 Q Since you are in charge of the NCR situation,

1 I'd like--

2 MR. WATKINS: He testified "office".

3 MR. BACHMANN: Okay. Whatever it is, the  
4 record will reflect it. I just couldn't remember the  
5 exact words that he used, but that's not important at  
6 this point.

7 BY MR. BACHMANN:

8 Q Would Ms. Neumeyer's concurrence as to the  
9 resolution of this NCR make any difference one way or  
10 the other?

11 A As-- You kind of left me hanging there.

12 Q Okay. All right.

13 Let's take the concrete example we have  
14 right here.

15 A All right.

16 Q That of the probable or possible voiding of  
17 the NCR.

18 A Uh-huh.

19 Q If she agreed or did not agree with the  
20 voiding of the NCR, would it make any difference as far  
21 as the NCR procedures are concerned? The handling of  
22 NCR's.

23 A The reason I'm, you know, kind of hesitant  
24 in answering, it sounds like you're asking me two things  
25 at once. You know, how are NCR's handled. Or, you know,

1       how were we processing them versus would her objection to  
2       voiding an NCR have anything to do in how we handled it.

3               Q       Well, why don't you just answer them in  
4       that order?  It's probably much better than my question.

5               A       The NCR's, you know, as they're processed  
6       go through reviews and signoff signatures and so forth.

7                       When an NCR is voided, the individual that  
8       initiated the NCR is presented a copy of that NCR and an  
9       explanation as to the reasoning behind the voiding of it,  
10      why it wasn't a non-conforming condition or if it had been  
11      previously identified or anything like this.  But they  
12      are explained why.

13              Q       Okay.

14              A       Now, if that individual didn't concur with  
15      it, and that's what I think you were asking, then they  
16      would process-- or, they would proceed, you know, to  
17      explain why, you know, it doesn't, you know-- what you're  
18      saying for justification doesn't exist, for example, or  
19      something to that effect.

20                      They could rev the NCR.

21              Q       Could you explain that, please?

22              A       They could revise, when I say "rev".

23              Q       Yes.

24              A       And say, you know, it's still a non-conforming  
25      condition, and it would take, you know, more individuals to



1 sit down and go through all of the necessary records to  
2 either substantiate it is a nonconforming condition or to  
3 say, "No, it's really not a non-conforming condition."

4 Q Okay. Now, the physical process of, as you  
5 pointed out, revving an NCR, how would that actually be  
6 done by the individual.

7 A To--

8 Q Just exactly physically, what would the  
9 person do?

10 A They would rewrite, on a blank NCR, the  
11 non-conformance or the description of the non-conformance  
12 and request an R-1.

13 And at the bottom of the block where it  
14 says "non-conformance description", they show rev 1 and  
15 who revved it and why they revved it.

16 And in a hypothetical, and that's what  
17 we're really saying, would say "to further clarify" the  
18 non-conforming condition.

19 Q Now, you just stated that it would take more  
20 people to clear a revised NCR than the original one.

21 A Right.

22 Q Is that in the procedures?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q Okay. Well, who--

25 A When a-- when a-- You know, when it

1 cannot be resolved or you've got an impasse, then it's  
2 elevated up in management, and it would go as high as the  
3 project QE manager.

4 Q Which would be?

5 A Gordon Purdy.

6 MR. WATKINS: Just to be clear, we're  
7 speaking of the ASME QA site, are we not?

8 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

9 BY MR. BACHMANN:

10 Q This NCR was in the ASME QA site, was it  
11 not?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q It has been established in documents intro-  
14 duced in this-- during the course of these depositions  
15 that Sue Ann Neumeyer submitted a resignation effective--  
16 Excuse me. Submitted a resignation approximately the end  
17 of the first week of February of this year and left the  
18 plant approximately the middle of February of this year.

19 MR. WATKINS: Have those been offered in  
20 evidence? The resignation, for instance? I'm not sure  
21 they have.

22 MS. GARDE: They were marked for identifica-  
23 tion, and I think they may have been also in another. But  
24 they aren't yet entered in as exhibits. They will be.

25 MR. BACHMANN: Okay. Can we stipulate to

1 the facts I just stated, based on the documents that have  
2 been marked for identification?

3 MR. WATKINS: Well, if that's what you  
4 want to talk about, I have absolutely no problem with  
5 that.

6 MR. BACHMANN: Okay. I just--

7 MR. WATKINS: The evidentiary status of--

8 MR. BACHMANN: I'm sorry. I said they had  
9 been included somehow here as either exhibits or whatever.

10 MR. WATKINS: Items by identification.

11 The point I want to make is: I am unsure  
12 as to the evidentiary status of any document that witnesses  
13 have been cross-examined on, that have been bound into  
14 transcripts or anything else.

15 MR. BACHMANN: The status, the way I  
16 understand it, is, since we don't have the Board here to  
17 rule, would be that the document would be formally moved  
18 into evidence by the offering party.

19 Any objections would be noted on the record,  
20 and then the Board would decide when they got the transcripts  
21 which documents they would receive into evidence into the  
22 record and which documents they would accept the objections  
23 and not receive them.

24 I understand that's the ground rules.

25 MR. WATKINS: All right.

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BY MR. BACHMANN:

Q           Anyway, I just wanted to establish those dates, because evidently-- again, referring back to the Sue Ann Neumeyer affidavit that I talked to you about earlier, she refers to her last two weeks, which would be approximately the first half of February, and she alleges that on one occasion "Ted Blixt went to my superintendent complaining that I was out of my work area and that if I did not 'straighten up' he would see me to the gate".

Can you comment on that statement, please?

A           Well,--

MR. WATKINS: I'll object to the use of the statement as hearsay.

MR. BACHMANN: I would--

MR. WATKINS: Within hearsay, in fact.

Ms. Neumeyer's affidavit states that Mr. Blixt told something to her supervisor. It hasn't been established that she has any idea what Mr. Blixt might have said to Ms. Neumeyer's supervisor.

MR. BACHMANN: Let me rephrase the question. I withdraw the question, and I shall rephrase it.

BY MR. BACHMANN:

Q           During that period of time that we were discussing, from the time that Ms. Neumeyer submitted her

1 resignation 'til the time she actually left, did you ever  
2 complain to anyone above her in the chain of command about--  
3 did you ever go to anyone above her in the chain of command  
4 and complain about any of Ms. Neumeier's actions?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q Could you tell me to whom you said it and  
7 what were the things you were complaining about?

8 A I brought the--- or, addressed it . her  
9 supervisor.

10 Q Well, could you tell me who that was?

11 A Dwight Woodyard.

12 Q Yes.

13 A And I explained to him that she was out of  
14 her-- you know, she was where I had observed her. And  
15 there were two instances.

16 And I asked Dwight, realizing that, you know,  
17 when a person turns in a letter of resignation, they like  
18 to go around and say their last good-bye's to folks and  
19 things like this.

20 And at that time, we were really quite busy,  
21 and it was taking away from what my people were assigned  
22 to do.

23 And I said, "Hey, just, you know, ask her  
24 to stay in her work area and do her job. And that's fine."

25 The second time, in another area, same

1 thing. And I went to Dwight again because Susie doesn't  
2 work for me-- or, didn't work for me, and I said, "Would  
3 you please remind her of, you know, hanging in there in  
4 her own work area."

5 It was after the second incident, the next  
6 day, and I'm not sure what day of the week that was, that  
7 she specifically came to my office and requested permission  
8 to leave her assigned work area so that she could go to the  
9 front gate to receive flowers.

10 And why she came to me and made it a direct--  
11 "I request your permission", I don't know.

12 But, you know, I said, "Fine. You go pick  
13 your flowers up."

14 But she was very, you know-- Well, I'm not  
15 sure of the word. Abrupt, I guess, about it.

16 Q Okay. I would like to ask you a question  
17 I should have asked you earlier, and then I'll be done.

18 Going back to the meeting concerning the  
19 NCR,--

20 A Uh-huh.

21 Q --I would like to know what your impression  
22 was of Ms. Neumeyer's mental or emotional state during the  
23 course of that meeting. Just your impression. Nothing else.

24 You were physically there. You had an  
25 opportunity to observe her.

1 Did she seem calm or agitated or anything  
2 in between?

3 A I would think she-- She appeared to me as  
4 calm. She was glad that-- or appeared glad the-- you  
5 know, let's get this thing out and get it addressed and  
6 be done with the thing, whichever way it goes down.

7 She wasn't emotionally upset or anything  
8 that I could, you know, see.

9 You know, I'm not a doctor, but she appeared,  
10 you know, very calm to me.

11 MR. BACHMANN: I have no further questions  
12 at this time.

13 MR. WATKINS: Why don't we take a-- Can we  
14 take a 15-minute recess?

15 MS. GARDE: Yeah. I'm going to have about  
16 two or three questions based on that.

17 MR. WATKINS: You may have questions based  
18 upon my examination--

19 MS. GARDE: Okay.

20 MR. WATKINS: --of Mr. Blixt, but not on  
21 Mr. Bachmann's--

22 MS. GARDE: All right.

23 MR. WATKINS: --examination of Mr. Blixt.

24 We'll take a recess.

25 (Whereupon, at 11:52 a.m., a 15-minute recess

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was called in the proceedings.)

MILLERS FALLS  
ERASE  
COTTON CONTENT



(12:20 p.m.)

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MR. WATKINS: Let's go on the record.

BY MR. WATKINS:

Q. Mr. Blixt, you testified that you're not currently carrying any QC certifications. What certifications have you held in the past?

A. I've held NDE level three certifications, a welding inspector certifications. On numerous projects they don't have quite the breakdown like we have on ours currently here, so it would entail like a mechanical inspector's certification.

That covers like out here, MIFI, MEI, and so forth.

Q. Why don't you have any current certifications?

A. There's no requirement at this time.

Q. Is it necessary to your job that you be certified?

A. No.

Q. How many total years of experience in nuclear quality assurance/quality control do you have?

A. Approximately 15.

Q. Mr. Blixt, you testified earlier that you supervise the NCR office. Can you describe the functions of that office?

A. The NCR office is there to provide the

1 inspectors with an NCR number, log the entries against that  
2 number as to the basic description. Upon receipt of that  
3 NCR from the inspector, QE reviews it for clarity, accuracy  
4 and so forth.

5           Once that's been done, then they assign it  
6 to an action addressee for the dispositioning. When that  
7 comes back to the NCR office and is approved, the disposi-  
8 tion is approved, the NCR office then makes distribution  
9 until it's closed.

10           Once an NCR is closed, it's been worked and  
11 closed, then they get the necessary signatures on the NCR  
12 to close it and transmit it to the permanent plant records  
13 vault.

14           Q.       You mentioned that they send the NCR to an  
15 action addressee. Could you describe the different organi-  
16 zations or people to whom they might send those NCRs?

17           A.       Oh, on a mechanical type nonconformance,  
18 piping, valves, something like this, it would go to the  
19 mechanical engineer, which would be Claude Mohlman.

20                    On NCRs related to hangers, supports, that  
21 would go to the hanger engineering individual, which would  
22 be Jay Ryan and John Finneran.

23           Q.       Might they also go to welding engineering?

24           A.       Yes. They could go to welding engineering  
25 and those related type. That would be Bill Baker.

1 Q. Might an NCR also go to you or Mr. Siever?

2 A. On -- for QE disposition, yes. But it would  
3 reflect on the disposition or the act.on of the signee  
4 block QE, only being that we dispositioned if it can be  
5 fixed in accordance with an approved procedure.

6 Q. You testified that you have not discussed  
7 your testimony with anyone other than your counsel. Did  
8 you mean by that that you've not discussed the substance of  
9 your testimony with anyone other than your counsel?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You might have discussed with other people  
12 at the site, the fact that you had been called as a witness  
13 in this proceeding.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. When you discussed the project on which C. C.  
16 Randall and you worked regarding the steel liner plate of  
17 the spent fuel pool, you mentioned that your task was to  
18 try to track down the paperwork associated with the  
19 fabrication of the steel liner plate. And using the word  
20 "fabrication," did you include within that the installation  
21 of the liner plate?

22 A. Yeah, fabrication and installation are -- I  
23 don't know. I look at them as the same thing.

24 Q. Now you testified that chits have not been  
25 used while you have been on the site. Do you know for

1 certain whether chits were, prior to the time you started  
2 work here, treated as permanent plant records?

3 A. No.

4 Q. You don't know.

5 A. Huh-uh.

6 Q. In discussing the correspondence between  
7 travellers and chits, you indicated that there might have  
8 been corresponding numbers between the travellers and the  
9 chits.

10 Could there also have been, to the best of  
11 your recollection, corresponding component numbers?

12 A. As piece marked or a weld identified, yeah,  
13 that could be.

14 Q. And both a chit and a traveller might also  
15 have identified a weld number.

16 A. Right.

17 Q. Mr. Blixt, you testified that when you  
18 needed a quality control inspector to work on the spent  
19 fuel pool liner plate project, you asked Mr. Woodyard for  
20 help. Did you tell him that you needed a QCI to work on  
21 the spent fuel pool liner plate specifically?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did you tell him that you needed a QCI to  
24 work on travellers in connection with the spent fuel pool  
25 liner plate?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. What did you tell Mr. Woodyard?
- 3 A. I told him that I needed an inspector, that  
4 I, you know, I had all these documents I'm going to need  
5 him to go back through.
- 6 Q. At the time you worked on this project with  
7 Mr. Randall, you testified that you were working the night  
8 shift. What shift was Mr. Woodyard working at the time?
- 9 A. Days.
- 10 Q. Do you remember Bob Siever participating in  
11 any way in this exercise regarding the spent fuel pool liner  
12 plates?
- 13 A. No, I don't.
- 14 Q. After you, Mr. Randall and Ms. Neumeyer  
15 completed your work on this project, do you know what  
16 happened to the paperwork?
- 17 A. It went back to the Non-ASME group.
- 18 Q. Did you have any further involvement with  
19 these travellers or this problem?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. Before this project, had you ever done any  
22 work on the spent fuel pool liners or on the spent fuel  
23 pool, generally?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. This was a one-time project then --

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. -- as far as you were concerned?

3 Did Ms. Neumeyer tell you at anytime during  
4 your work on this project that she had a problem with the  
5 work that she was asked to do?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. Did she tell you at anytime during your work  
8 on this project that she had a problem with the way that  
9 she was asked to do the work?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did she mention that she felt harassed by  
12 having to do the work that she was asked to do?

13 A. No.

14 Q. During the entire time that Sue Ann Neumeyer  
15 and you were both working at Comanche Peak, did she ever  
16 complain to you that she was upset with her job assign-  
17 ments?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Did she ever complain to you that she felt  
20 pressured, harassed, or intimidated in her professional  
21 duties?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Let's go to the meeting you described earlier  
24 regarding an NCR written by Mr. Stanford. Where was that  
25 meeting?

1 A. Bob Siever's office.

2 Q. During that meeting, you have testified that  
3 neither you nor anyone else yelled at Sue Ann Neumeyer, is  
4 that correct?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. Did you yell at anyone else during this  
7 meeting?

8 A. I don't know if "yelled" is the right word.  
9 I raised my voice.

10 Q. At whom did you raise your voice?

11 A. At Jack Stanford, the inspector.

12 Q. Why?

13 A. Well, I asked the question, you know, "Did  
14 you -- do you remember -- or did you do the PT exam?" And  
15 he said, "I think so."

16 And, you know, I said, "What do you mean  
17 you think so?" And, yeah, I was getting a little upset  
18 with Mr. Stanford.

19 Q. Did you think that Ms. Neumeyer had properly  
20 done her job in identifying the discrepancy and writing the  
21 NCR?

22 A. Yeah. She did what she was supposed to do.

23 Q. If you had a problem with anyone, it was  
24 with Mr. Stanford, not with Ms. Neumeyer, is that correct?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q Were you responsible for the disposition of  
2 the Stanford NCR?

3 A No.

4 Q Who was?

5 A Well, Bob dispositioned it and it was over.  
6 Bob Siever.

7 Q Did you have any further involvement with  
8 the NCR after you left that meeting?

9 A No.

10 Q During the period between the time that Ms.  
11 Neumeyer gave notice that she was resigning her job and the  
12 time she actually left, did you say anything to Mr. Woodyard  
13 concerning taking Ms. Neumeyer to the gate?

14 A No.

15 Q Did you say anything to Ms. Neumeyer regard-  
16 ing taking her to the gate?

17 A No.

18 Q When she came in to you in the incident  
19 you described at which she requested permission to go to  
20 the gate to pick up flowers, was it your impression that  
21 she was being sarcastic?

22 A Yes, it was.

23 MR. WATKINS: No further questions.

24 (Pause.)

25 MS. GARDE: Who's next?



1 MR. WATKINS: I believe you are, Ms. Garde.

2 MS. GARDE: All right.

3 MR. WATKINS: Unless you'd like to make a  
4 deal with Mr. Bachmann.

5 MR. BACHMANN: Does Mr. Coppock have any?

6 MR. COPPOCK: I have no questions for the  
7 witness.

8 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MS. GARDE:

10 Q. Mr. Blixt, I just have a few questions for  
11 you.

12 Mr. Bachmann questioned you about the  
13 January meeting regarding the -- what has become known as  
14 "the Stanford incident," the NCR which was the subject of  
15 that particular meeting. And you said that you'd suggested  
16 that the meeting be held.

17 Is it normal practice to hold meetings such  
18 as this?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay. Now prior to your suggesting the  
21 meeting to Mr. Sievers, did you talk to anyone from craft  
22 about the NCR?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Not Terry Metheny?

25 A. No. When I talked with Terry was in that

1 meeting.

2 Q Mr. Watkins asked you if at anytime Ms.  
3 Neumeyer said she had a problem, went through a series of  
4 things, felt harassed, complained, upset, pressured,  
5 intimidated. What is your understanding of the term  
6 "harassment"?

7 A As I perceive it to be? Is that what the --

8 Q Uh-huh.

9 A -- question is?

10 Q Uh-huh.

11 A If you were to -- oh, I don't know. You  
12 could harass by putting undue pressure on an individual,  
13 on giving them a task that, you know, would be very trying  
14 or straining on that person, something like that. That  
15 would be harassment in my opinion.

16 Q Do you know of any Brown & Root or site  
17 policy regarding harassment?

18 A Harassment of --

19 Q QC inspectors.

20 A Other than, you know, if they feel they have  
21 a problem, there's a hot line set up for them. And they  
22 can talk to the NRC and all this, yes.

23 Q But as a supervisor, you don't know of any  
24 policy, written policy, regarding harassment or intimidation  
25 of QC inspectors.

1           A.       Not a written procedure or anything like that,  
2 no.

3           Q.       So, if Ms. Neumeyer was upset about the  
4 disposition of this NCR, what should she have done?

5           A.       What could she have done, you're asking me.

6           Q.       What could she have done?

7           A.       She could have elevated it to -- to Gordon.  
8 That would have been a possible. She could have written a  
9 revision to it. That would be another possibility.

10          Q.       Uh-huh.

11          A.       She could have even brought it, if the  
12 concern was so significant or it would have been a problem  
13 with her, to the NRC resident inspector that she felt that,  
14 you know, there was a problem that she thought was going  
15 undetected or something like that.

16          Q.       Do you have any knowledge of whether she did  
17 go to the NCR resident inspector?

18          A.       No, ma'am.

19          Q.       Do you have any knowledge of whether she  
20 raised this concern to anybody other than those of you in  
21 attendance at the meeting?

22          A.       No, she didn't raise it concerning the  
23 meeting other than she agreed that the action we had taken  
24 on the thing.

25          Q.       Do you have any knowledge of Ms. Neymeyer's

1 having gone to the site ombudsman regarding this NCR?

2 A. I'm sorry. I don't understand the question.

3 Q. Do you know whether there's a site  
4 ombudsman?

5 A. The acronym "ombudsman," I don't -- I'm not  
6 familiar with.

7 Q. Okay. Do you know Mr. Boyce Grier?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. What is your understanding of Mr.  
10 Boyce Grier's position?

11 A. That he is -- that he works for the owner,  
12 and that if individuals have a problem or a concern they can  
13 go and discuss it with him.

14 Q. Do you have any knowledge of Ms. Neumeyer  
15 going and talking to Mr. Grier about the disposition of this  
16 NCR?

17 A. No, ma'am.

18 Q. Now one more question.

19 (Pause.)

20 MS. GARDE: No further questions. That's all.

21 MR. BACHMANN: I have a -- just one clarify-  
22 ing question on a statement just made by Mr. Blitz.

23 BY MR. BACHMANN:

24 Q. You stated that Boyce Grier works for the  
25 owner. Is there a significance in that statement? I mean,

1 as opposed to working for someone else?

2 A. No. That's -- you know, she asked me if I  
3 knew Boyce Grier. And, yeah, he works for TUCCO as far as  
4 I know.

5 Q. As opposed to working for whom?

6 A. Brown & Root or anyone else.

7 MR. EACHMANN: Okay. Thank you. That's all  
8 I have.

9 MR. WATKINS: We'll go off the record for  
10 just a second.

11 (Discussion off the record.)

12 MR. WATKINS: On the record.

13 I have just one additional question.

14 RE-CROSS-EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. WATKINS:

16 Q. Mr. Blixt, during the time that you've been  
17 here on site, have you ever supervised QC inspectors who  
18 were actively doing inspection work in the field?

19 A. No.

20 MR. WATKINS: No further questions.

21 Does this conclude Mr. Blixt's examination?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. WATKINS: Hearing no response, thank you,  
24 Mr. Blixt.

25 MR. BACHMANN: Thank you.

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MS. GARDE: Thank you, Mr. Blixt.

MR. WATKINS: We're off the record.

(Whereupon, at 12:40 p.m. the deposition was  
concluded.)

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John T. Blixt, Jr.  
Deponent

MILLERS FALLS  
ERASE  
COTTON CONTENT

CERTIFICATE OF PROCEEDINGS

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

In the matter of: Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station


Date of Proceeding: July 25, 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.

James R. Burns, Jr.

Official Reporter - Typed

  
Official Reporter - Signature

CERTIFICATE OF PROCEEDINGS

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

In the matter of: TEXAS UTILITIES ELECTRIC COMPANY, et al  
(Deposition of John T. Blixt, Jr.)

Date of Proceeding: Wednesday, July 25, 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.

Margaret K. Schneider  
Official Reporter - Typed

  
Margaret K. Schneider  
Official Reporter - Signature



CERTIFICATE OF PROCEEDINGS

1 This is to certify that the attached proceedings before the  
2 NRC COMMISSION

3 In the matter of: TEXAS UTILITIES ELECTRIC COMPANY, et al  
4 (Deposition of John T. Blixt, Jr.)

5 Date of Proceeding: Wednesday, July 25, 1984

6 Place of Proceeding: Glen Rose, Texas

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

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10 Sandra Harden  
Official Reporter - Typed

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13 Official Reporter - Signature