

DOCKETED
USNRC

REPORT OF INTERVIEW
WITH
CHRISTOPHER C. ECKERT

95 OCT 20 P2:58

On November 3, 1993, Christopher Charles ECKERT, Quality Assurance Auditor, Georgia Power Company (GPC), Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (VEGP), was interviewed by Larry L. Robinson, Senior Investigator, Office of Investigations (OI), NRC, at the Administration Building, VEGP, Waynesboro, GA. Also in attendance at this interview, and representing both ECKERT and GPC was Arthur H. DOMBY, Attorney, with the Troutman Sanders law firm. The nature of the interview pertained to the GPC presentation of Emergency Diesel Generator testing data to NRC on April 9, 1990.

Prior to the interview, ECKERT was sworn by Robinson, and having been duly sworn, provided the following information:

ECKERT stated that he was a 1974 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, and upon graduation entered into the Navy Nuclear Program. He advised that he left the Navy in 1980, and went to work for General Electric. ECKERT stated that he became employed by GPC on September 30, 1985, and spent about 10 days at GPC Corporate offices in Atlanta, GA, in an Outage & Planning capacity. He said that he then worked for 60 - 90 days on an Environmental Quality Project at Plant Hatch, and in January, 1986, became the Manager of the Independent Safety Review Group at Plant Hatch. ECKERT stated that in June of 1987 he transferred to VEGP as a Technical Assistant to the Plant Manager, and in December, 1987 was appointed Manager of the Health/Physics - Chemistry Department at VEGP. He advised that in February, 1988 he went to Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) School, and completed his training and received his SRO License in January or February, 1989. He said that he was a Manager in Training until October, 1989, doing both outage-related and on-shift duties. ECKERT stated that in October, 1989, he requested to be a Shift Supervisor, and performed those duties until November 1992. He advised that at the time of the Site Area Emergency (SAE), on March 20, 1990, he was the Local Leak Rate Coordinator, and at the time of the SAE was assigned by George BOCKHOLD, the General Manager, VEGP, to be the Event Critique Team Leader for Unit 2.

ECKERT stated that, in preparation for BOCKHOLD's presentation to NRC on April 9, 1990, he assisted by preparing the transparency entitled UNIT 2. He advised that he thought he had been tasked to do the UNIT 2 transparency earlier on that same day, which he believed was the Friday before the presentation, because he remembered that he had to have it done that afternoon. He did not recall if his assignment to do the transparency came directly from BOCKHOLD or not.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Docket No. 50-424/425-OLA-3 EXHIBIT NO. Int II-212

In the matter of GA Power Co. et al, Vogtle Units 1+2

Staff Applicant Intervenor Other

Identified Received Rejected Reporter SD

Date 09-05-95 Witness Eckert

Case No. 2-90-02C

EXHIBIT 51

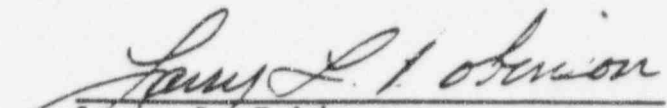
ECKERT advised that his Unit Superintendent at the time was Jimmy Paul CASH, and CASH had assigned him (ECKERT) to look into the Deficiency Card (DC) system. ECKERT stated that earlier that same day, he walked into CASH's office with a DC in his hand, prepared to talk to CASH about a need to improve the DC process on locked valves. ECKERT stated that CASH told him that he did not have the time to talk about the DC at that point because he (CASH) was "doing something for my boss's boss's boss." ECKERT stated that he saw something on CASH's desk that looked similar to one of the columns in the DIESEL TESTING transparency (used in the 4/9/90 GPC presentation to NRC), which had been displayed to him by OI in this interview. He stated that the words on the document he saw on CASH's desk were "left justified", however, and not centered as they were in the DIESEL TESTING transparency. ECKERT advised that CASH said that he (CASH) was "counting starts." ECKERT stated that he thought CASH was working to make corrections to the "left justified" document that was on his desk. ECKERT stated that he did not recall whether or not there were any numbers on the document on CASH's desk.

ECKERT stated that about 4:30 or 5:00 PM that same afternoon, after his conversation with CASH, he took his proposed UNIT 2 slide to BOCKHOLD's office. He stated that they made some minor corrections to his transparency, and ECKERT took it out to Esther DIXON to have her retype the corrections. He advised that after she was finished, he took it back into BOCKHOLD's office and BOCKHOLD was on the phone. ECKERT stated that while he was waiting for BOCKHOLD to get off the phone, he noticed the DIESEL TESTING slide on BOCKHOLD's desk. He advised that he noticed that the numbers above the lines did not add up to the numbers below the lines, and he commented to BOCKHOLD that "they don't add up." He stated that BOCKHOLD said, "They don't have to. That's not the purpose of this slide." ECKERT stated that BOCKHOLD then told him that the slide was just a representation of types of things that were done. ECKERT said that he did not think that the DIESEL TESTING slide on BOCKHOLD's desk was left justified, but he could not positively recall. He stated that he could not recall what the numbers on the slide were, only that they did not add up. ECKERT stated that BOCKHOLD did not seem irritated or angry that ECKERT was looking at the slide and commenting on it. He advised that he did not recall discussing the slide any further with BOCKHOLD. He advised that he got BOCKHOLD's approval on his (ECKERT's) UNIT 2 slide, and then left BOCKHOLD's office.

ECKERT stated that he has never discussed this BOCKHOLD conversation with Jimmy Paul CASH.

ECKERT stated that the reason this interchange with BOCKHOLD was memorable to him was because he used to do presentation papers for BOCKHOLD all the time, but this UNIT 2 slide was the first one that he had done for BOCKHOLD in quite a while. He opined that perhaps the reason he remembered that the document on Jimmy Paul CASH's desk was left justified was that CASH's office was usually disorganized, and a left justified document seemed more organized to him (ECKERT).

This Report of Interview was prepared on December 3, 1993.


Larry L. Robinson
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Office of Investigations
Field Office, Region II