

Foster

UNITED STATES
 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
 REGION III
 799 ROOSEVELT ROAD
 GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

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March 4, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Region III Files, Midland
 FROM: James E. Foster, Investigator
 SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL CONTACT, ALLEGATIONS RE WELDING AT MIDLAND
 (REF. FOSTER MEMO OF MARCH 3, 1982)

I recontacted Mr. E. Earl Kent at approximately 8:21 p.m. on March 2, 1982, to gather additional information regarding his concerns over welding at the Midland site.

Kent again indicated that the socket weld size concern was "generic" to the plant, and covered stainless steel and carbon steel welds, pipe schedules 40, 60 or 80, line diameters from 3/4 inch to 4 inches, and line pressures from 150 psi to 3,000 psi. After additional questioning, he indicated deficient welds could be found in "Q" piping in the lowest level of the auxiliary building.

Kent then located some notes on a sample of welds inspected as a part of an informal "audit" (no report was generated) of thirteen socket welds. Of these, he characterized three welds (91, 90 and 89) as unacceptable, with welds Nos 90 and 89 being the worst. These welds were on drawing FSK-M-1HBC-58-2 (later determined to be a service water line).

Kent and I reviewed a list of site personnel with last names beginning with "Van", and positively identified Vandebosch as the last name of the individual nicknamed "Dutch". Kent stated "Dutch" had called him earlier that evening, and advised that a weld Kent had pointed out on a steam line was indeed defective, and "some paper had been written on it".

Kent discussed various disagreements he had with the provisions of some Bechtel welding specifications, such as the allowable length of time for cold E-7018 (low hydrogen) weld rod to be utilized, the argon purge specification allowing 1-4 cubic feet per minute argon flow (he felt that this was allowing too much latitude), and not checking the dew point on argon utilized for purges.

Kent emphasized his expertise in the welding field, indicating that he was a former welding instructor, had published several technical articles in welding journals, and was listed in the "welding encyclopedia". He also stressed his continued desire for confidentiality. I again advised that both Bechtel and the licensee would undoubtedly be aware he had contacted Region III when we looked into the specific issued he had recently raised onsite.

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Region III Files, Midland

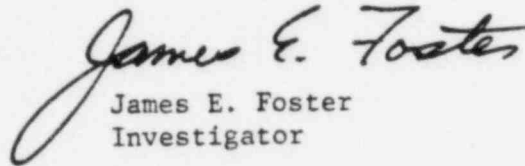
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The call was concluded at approximately 9:06 p.m.

Following my conversation with Kent, I attempted to call Mr. Vandebosch. Directory assistance indicated two Vandeboschs in the Midland area. The correct individual was found to be a Richard Vandebosch, telephone number 517-832-3403. The number did not answer, and I abandoned the effort for the evening.

The Resident Inspector for Midland, Ron Cook, contacted me following these calls. I provided him with the information I had gained from Kent, and he indicated he and Kavin Ward would begin their review the following morning at the Midland site.


James E. Foster
Investigator

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