Reviewed by me this date 12/14/94 Robert P. Weiss

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

INTERVIEW

IN THE MATTER OF:	:	
INTERVIEW OF	:	Docket No.
ROBERT PARKER WEISS	:	(not assigned)
	:	

Thursday, December 1, 1994

Conference Room 202
Crystal River Plant
6745 N. Tallahassee Road
Crystal River, Florida

The above-entitled interview was conducted at 11:07 a.m.

BEFORE:

JIM VORSE	Senior Investigator
William McNULTY	Investigator
CURT RAPP	Reactor Engineer

CASE NO. 2-94-036

EXHIBIT 9

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APPEARANCES:

On Behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

JAMES VORSE, Senior Investigator

Region II NRC Office of Investigations

401 Marietta Street

Atlanta, Georgia 30323

WILLIAM J. MCNULTY

Field Office Director

NRC Office of Investigations

1450 Maria Lane

Walnut Creek, California 94596

CURT RAPP

Reactor Engineer - NRC, Region II

6745 N. Tallahassee Road

Crystal River, Florida 32629

On Behalf of the Interviewee, Robert Parker Weiss

GREG HALNON

Operations Manager

Crystal River Nuclear Plant

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

MR. VORSE: This is an interview of Mr. Rob Weiss, a Reactor Operator. We're at the Crystal River Nuclear Plant, Administration Building, Room 202, the time is 11:07 a.m., December 1, 1994.

Present are myself, Jim Vorse, Investigator, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Investigations. Mr. Bill McNulty, also an Office of Investigations Investigator. Mr. Curt Rapp, who is a Reactor Engineer, NRC, Region II. Mr. Greg Halnon, who is the Operations Manager here at Crystal River Nuclear Plant, and he has been requested to attend this interview with Mr. Weiss at Mr. Weiss' request.

Mr. Weiss, would you spell your full name, please, for us.

MR. WEISS: Just the last name?

MR. VORSE: First and last.

MR. WEISS: Okay. Robert, R-O-B-E-R-T, Parker, P-A-R-K-E-R, Weiss, W-E-I-S-S.

MR. VORSE: And what -- give us what you do for your job.

MR. WEISS: I'm an Assistant Nuclear Shift Supervisor, Crystal River, Unit III.

MR. VORSE: Would you describe your duties to us and tell us how long you've been doing this.

MR. WEISS: Well, my duties are to supervise the shift, ensure the safe operation of the plant while I'm on duty.

I've been doing this since -- gee, I'm not sure, to be honest. It's when I got my SRO. I think it was around --

MR. HALNON: The same year I got mine, 1989.

MR. WEISS: '89? Yeah.

I've worked as an operator at CR III since 1980.

MR. VORSE: By CR III you mean Crystal River III?

MR. WEISS: That's correct.

MR. VORSE: Do you recall an incident on September 5th, 1994, regarding the curve at the make-up tank?

MR. WEISS: Yes.

MR. VORSE: Can you describe your participation in this event?

MR. WEISS: I was the Nuclear -- or the Assistant Nuclear Shift Supervisor on duty that night and I was involved in the evolution that we performed. And I also collected the data and evaluated it and wrote the problem report on it.

MR. VORSE: When you collected the data, what did you collect?

MR. WEISS: We have a system called REDAS that let's us pull computer point history from the computers into an XL spreadsheet and I use that to graph it.

MR. VORSE: Use that to graph what?

MR. WEISS: I graph pressure versus level.

MR. VORSE: Before you did this there was some discussion about the test. Can you recall what that discussion was and who was there?

MR. WEISS: Well, let's see. The members of my crew were there. That was Dave Fields was the shift supervisor, Mark Van Sicklin was the chief and he was in the Control Room for this with us, Jack Steward was on the board, Christine Smith on the board, and we had Jim Atkinson and Stan Kaconas in the Auxiliary building. And we discussed what we planned to do to put the make-up tank level at the high end of the normal operating ~~vent~~ level band and put make-up tank pressure to the curve, and then bleed the make-up tank down to 55, which is the lower limits of the operating curve.

We discussed that if the pressure did go above the curve, that we should have somebody standing by in the Aux building ready to vent the make-up tank if any signs of increased RCS leakage occurred.

We talked a little bit about whether what we were doing, you know, what guidance that we had to do this, and

we felt that an OP-402 provided that guidance to perform this evolution.

MR. VORSE: Did you look at 402? Did you review 402?

MR. WEISS: Yeah, we looked at it. We didn't fill out a copy of it. You know, bleeding the make-up tank is a pretty routinely performed evolution.

MR. VORSE: Did anyone express any concern about going outside design basis?

MR. WEISS: No, I don't think that -- I didn't realize that the curve is a design basis limit, okay. We knew it was an operating curve. We had been looking at some of the bases for the curve, but it wasn't clear that that curve represented the design basis limit on this issue.

MR. VORSE: Had you known that, would you have done the test?

MR. WEISS: No, I would not have let pressure remain above the curve. You know, as soon as I violated it that's a reportable issue at that point.

MR. VORSE: Did -- Did anyone -- this may be a repeat of what I just said, but did anyone express reservations about conducting this test because it was outside design basis?

MR. WEISS: No.

MR. VORSE: Who was the person that was primarily vocal about conducting this test? Who really got it stirred up?

MR. WEISS: Well, I'd say that the person who had been most involved in the concerns with the make-up tank pressure response to level drop was my chief at the time, Mark Van Sicklin. He had written a concern following the data that was collected during SP-630, the fact that the response trace looked like it was going to cross the curve. And that was addressed in a problem report, PR -- I think it was 94149. And he came to me when it looked like the issue was going to be closed out and asked if we could try this, put it on the curve at the high level, drop level and see what the response was, just to verify once and for all before the issue was closed for all time.

And I discussed it with Dave; we thought that we had adequate guidance in our normal operating procedures as long as we stayed within our normal operating limits on level to do it.

MR. VORSE: Curt, do you have any questions you want to ask?

MR. RAPP: Not at this time.

MR. VORSE: Bill?

MR. McNULTY: Your normal operating limits on level, that would be the limits of how far you could draw

the water level down? Is that --

MR. WEISS: That's correct. We have a normal operating band on level in the make-up tank, it's given in OP-402. It's 86 inches is the high and 55 is the low.

MR. McNULTY: Fifty-five is the low.

MR. WEISS: And, in fact, the reason that we restricted ourselves to that region was that we felt that to go outside the normal operating limits of the -- of the level band would require a test procedure.

MR. McNULTY: How about are there operating limits for the pressure?

MR. WEISS: There is an operating limit curve, Curve 8, I believe it is, of OP-103B.

MR. McNULTY: All right. And that's the one that you felt was not -- you didn't recognize that as a design basis limit at that time, is that correct?

MR. WEISS: That is correct.

MR. McNULTY: Do you have other curves that you operate with in your procedures?

MR. WEISS: Yes.

MR. McNULTY: Are they design basis limit curves or are they --

MR. WEISS: I don't know of --

MR. McNULTY: -- conservative admin curves?

MR. WEISS: -- any of those curves that are

design basis limits.

MR. McNULTY: And can you think of any curve that you've got in your procedures that is a design basis limit?

MR. WEISS: Which -- you know, let me just clarify. When you say "is a design basis limit", you're not saying that it's based upon a design basis issue, but that the limit is actually at the design basis; correct?

MR. McNULTY: That's correct.

MR. WEISS: I don't know of any curves like that.

MR. McNULTY: So in your experience most of the curves that are in our procedures from Florida Power are conservative, they're not at the design basis limit?

MR. WEISS: That is correct. There's a general philosophy to provide a buffer between the operating limit and the design basis limit.

MR. McNULTY: So, in utilizing the curve in procedure 402 you felt that that was the same as the other ones you've worked with, that was an at a design limit?

MR. WEISS: I didn't recognize ~~it~~ that it was at the design basis limit; that is correct.

MR. McNULTY: One other question was, and different facilities refer to different positions and different time names, was there a shift technical advisor

on duty that night?

MR. WEISS: I don't recall who was functioning as the shift technical advisor. The man on call -- or the shift manager --

MR. McNULTY: Okay -- the correct way --

MR. WEISS: Please do because I don't recall.

MR. HALNON: Larry Moffit was the shift manager. We have a dual role of shift manager/STA.

MR. McNULTY: Okay.

MR. HALNON: And he was on duty that night.

MR. McNULTY: Was he involved in any of the discussions as far as this evolution went?

MR. WEISS: Bearing in mind this happened a while back, to the best of my recollection, we talked to him after we had done this, but not prior to.

MR. McNULTY: Is he normally involved in a briefing before the shift takes over?

MR. WEISS: Normally at the turnover meetings, when our shift first comes on, yes, he would -- would normally be around.

MR. McNULTY: And did anyone mention to him that you planned to conduct this evolution with the make-up tank?

MR. WEISS: I don't recall.

MR. McNULTY: That's all I have.

MR. VORSE: Would you care to add anything to what you've talked about this morning?

MR. WEISS: No, not at this time.

MR. VORSE: Okay. Have you been forced to attend this session by anyone, have you been coerced to attend this session?

MR. WEISS: No, I was told that this was a consensual meeting, that I did have the right to decline.

MR. VORSE: Okay. Well, we appreciate your being here and we'll go ahead and conclude this interview. The time is 11:18 a.m., December 1st.

(Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded at 11:18 o'clock a.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 United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the matter of:

Name of Proceeding: Interview of Robert Parker Weiss

Docket Number(s): (not assigned)

Place of Proceeding: Crystal River, Florida

were held as herein appears, and that this is the original transcript thereof for the file of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission taken by me and, thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under the direction of the court reporting company, and that the transcript is a true and accurate record of the foregoing proceedings.

Peggy S. May
Official Reporter
Neal R. Gross and Co., Inc.