

EXHIBIT 9

Case No. 2-1998-027

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REPORT OF INTERVIEWS
WITH
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES

The interviews were conducted on January 14 and 15, 1999, by U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Office of Investigations (OI) Special Agent Darrell B. White. The interviewees provided information on a meeting which occurred on May 11, 1995, at Watts Bar Nuclear Power Plant, Spring City, TN. The following employees were interviewed:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
Landy Leon McCORMICK	Component Engineer Supervisor
Craig Steven FAULKNER	Reactor Engineer Sector Supervisor
Sammy Lee LINGINFELTER	Systems Engineer
Steven Daniel SWINDLEHURST	Systems Engineer
Margaret Elizabeth SELEWSKI	Systems Engineer
Jose Javier ORTIZ	Systems Engineer
Charles Edward HOOD, Jr.	Thermal Performance Engineer
John William FERGUSON	Systems Engineer
Edward David GENTRY	Systems Engineer
Craig WILLIAMS	Systems Engineer
Robert Bruce RIEGER	Systems Engineer
Thomas Frederick HUTH	Systems Engineer
Joseph Edward ENGLEHARDT	Systems Engineer
Doug JACKSON	Concerns Resolution Manager
Paul L. PACE	Licensing and Industry Affairs Manager

McCORMICK reported he was the systems engineering supervisor at Watts Bar in 1995 and reported directly to Dennis KOEHL. McCORMICK recalled Watts Bar started up in November 1995 and was in preparation for the startup in May 1995. According to McCORMICK, he did not recall the specific meeting held on May 11, 1999, but he never heard [REDACTED] or anyone else give direction at any time not to write Problem Evaluation Reports (PERs). In fact, he reported if such a statement had been said he would have recalled it and employees present at the time would have objected to the directive. McCORMICK advised an atmosphere existed prior to startup where funds were tight, but employees were still encouraged to write PERs. The PERs were encouraged so problems would not be identified at the last minute prior to start up.

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McCORMICK explained at the time prior to fuel loading PERs were separated by non-fuel load issues and fuel loading issues and prioritized as to when and how to address the problems. McCORMICK advised he never received a complaint from anyone concerning a directive not to write PERs.

FAULKNER provided information he was a reactor engineer sector supervisor in 1995 at Watts Bar and his day planner for the period show he attended a morning meeting for supervisors on May 11, 1995, but he was not sure if he attended a technical support meeting the same day. FAULKNER stated he did not recall receiving a directive not to write PERs unless they were fuel load related. In fact, he reported receiving both fuel load and non-fuel load related PERs during the period in question. FAULKNER explained at the time non-fuel load PERs were not concentrated on as much as fuel load related matters due to the impending reactor startup.

LINGINFELTER advised FERGUSON's day planner showed he was present for a meeting on May 11, 1995, but he did not remember any specifics from the meeting. LINGINFELTER noted he felt like he would have recalled if a statement was made directing that only PERs relating to fuel loading should be written. He added he always felt free to write PERs on any topic. LINGINFELTER remembered that during the time frame in question management directed employees to be sensitive about trying to create unnecessary work by reporting issues. He explained with the impending plant startup employees were facing cut backs and one way to keep employees was to create issues that required evaluation.

ENGLEHARDT stated manpower was being reduced prior to plant startup and some people were reluctant to write PERs. The reluctance stemmed from the procedure that the person writing the PER would have to resolve the problem. ENGLEHARDT pointed out everyone was already getting too much overtime and didn't want added work. ENGLEHARDT reported he always felt free to write PERs on any item and he didn't recall receiving directions not to write PERs on items other than fuel loading.

PACE was interviewed in an attempt to identify if non-fuel loading PERs were received at Watts Bar after May 11, 1995. PACE responded by reporting it would be difficult utilizing his data base to separate fuel loading and non-fuel loading issues. Pace identified 16 PERs written between May 1, 1995 through December 31, 1995. Three of the 16 issues were resolved after fuel load occurred on November 9, 1995. According to PACE, one could conclude the three were non-fuel related because they were not closed until after fuel loading.

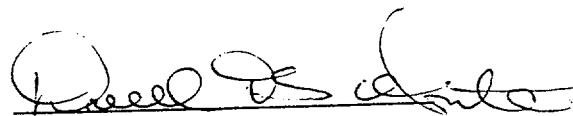
JACKSON, the employee concern coordinator, reported his office had not received a concern regarding employees being directed not to write PERs.

The other interviewees were unable to recall a specific meeting on May 11, 1995, but explained meetings were held with the technical support branch routinely leading up to the plant's startup. Interviewees advised they never heard a directive given not to write PERs unless related to fuel loading and if they had would have objected. Furthermore, the interviewees disclosed they never heard coworkers complain they couldn't write any type of PER. SWINDLEHURST advised he recalled being directed to make sure if an issue should be addressed as a work request rather than

a PER to make the distinction. ORTIZ recalled writing a non-fuel load related PER during the period in question and having it addressed in timely manner.

No additional pertinent information was obtained.

This report of interview was prepared on January 19, 1999.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Darrell B. White", written over a horizontal line.

Darrell B. White, Special Agent
Office of Investigations
Field Office, Region II