

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter of:	:	Docket Nos.
DUKE POWER COMPANY, ET AL	:	50-413
(Catawba Nuclear Station	:	50-414
Units 1 and 2)	:	

Deposition of:
Walter Leon Sifford
July 14, 1983

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LAWYER'S NOTES

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1 The deposition of Walter Leon Sifford was taken on the
2 14th day of July 1983 at the legal offices of Duke Power
3 Company, 500 South Church Street in Charlotte, North Carolina.

4 APPEARANCES:

5 For Duke Power Company - Ronald L. Gibson, Esq.
6 951 South Independence Blvd.
Charlotte, North Carolina

7 For Palmetto Alliance - Robert Guild, Esq.
8 2135 1/2 Devine Street
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9 (The deposition commenced at 11:25 a.m.)

10 MR. GIBSON: Mr. Guild, this is Mr. Sifford. I assume
11 we are proceeding under the same stipulations, and present
12 for Duke Power are Mr. Bell and Mr. Henry.

13 WALTER LEON SIFFORD,

14 having been first duly sworn, was examined and deposed as
15 follows:

16 BY MR. GUILD:

17 Q Mr. Sifford, my name is Bob Guild, and I am counsel for
18 the Palmetto Alliance. We are intervenors in the operating
19 license case for the Catawba station, and I want you to under-
20 stand that we have raised questions about quality assurance in
21 construction at Catawba. Are you aware generally of Palmetto
22 Alliance's position in that issue?

23 A Very general.

24 Q With me is Philip Jos, and Betsy Levitis is with Carolina
25 Environmental Study Group here in Charlotte, and she is running

1 a tape recording to maintain a tape of the deposition. I am
2 going to ask you a series of questions, Mr. Sifford, so I can
3 understand work relating to welder inspection and quality
4 assurance at Catawba. If I am not clear on a question, if you
5 don't understand, if I am using a term that is not clear,
6 please stop me and ask me to clarify and I will be happy to
7 do that. I want to understand that when the question is
8 asked and an answer appears in the transcript, that your
9 answer was responsive and that you understood the question.

10 Mr. Sifford, I want to show you a document that
11 quotes the text of what has been referred to as Contention 6.
12 It's the question that we raised about quality assurance.

13 Would you state your full name and business address for
14 the record, please, Mr. Sifford?

15 A Walter Leon Sifford.

16 Q And your business address, Mr. Sifford?

17 A I am an employee of Duke Power Company, Catawba Nuclear
18 Station.

19 Q And what's your position with the company, sir?

20 A I am a welding inspector supervisor.

21 Q Is your title supervising technician?

22 A Supervisor, yes, supervising technician over the welding
23 inspectors.

24 Q Okay.

25 A I hope that's first line, what I call first-line supervision.

1 Q Okay, I understand. Mr. Sifford, this is a December 31st,
2 1982, answer by Duke Power Company to questions that Palmetto
3 Alliance asked in discovery, and I would like for you, sir,
4 to take a few moments and read to yourself the contention which
5 begins at page 3 and goes over to page 4. It's that indented
6 portion, single-spaced text, and it goes down to here.

7 (The witness reads the document requested.)

8 Q All right, sir, had you seen that before, Mr. Sifford?

9 A No, sir, I have not.

10 Q Sir, can you relate for me your employment history with
11 Duke Power Company, when you started with the company, and the
12 best of your recollection the dates you held the different
13 jobs that you have held?

14 A I started to work for Duke Power Company on June 26th,
15 1972, started at McGuire Construction site at that time as a
16 steel worker. With that I worked over into the latter part
17 probably of October. At that time I applied for and got a
18 transfer to the quality assurance department. At that time I
19 was exposed to the procedures in the quality assurance depart-
20 ment, was schooled in the areas of quality assurance, and with
21 that I stayed in the work area, if you please, as a worker,
22 until approximately October of 1976, at which time I was
23 elevated to the position of supervisor with the quality assurance
24 department. From that time I continued to work at McGuire
25 until June the 13th, 1983. At that time I was transferred to

1 Catawba Nuclear Station, where I am now stationed.

2 Q All right, sir. Let's go back to '72, when you went into
3 the QA department. What was your work in '72 when you went
4 to QA, Mr. Sifford?

5 A I was a weld -- I was hired in the department after the
6 schooling was completed, and after I had passed the test that
7 was required with the schooling, I was a certified welding
8 inspector.

9 Q You were visual inspector, Mr. Sifford?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q Had you worked before as a welding craft, Mr. Sifford?

12 A Most of my life. I have been involved in the welding
13 craft and steel rigging.

14 Q Did you do welding work at McGuire?

15 A As a welder?

16 Q As a welder.

17 A No, sir.

18 Q Had you ever been certified to do code welding, nuclear
19 code welding?

20 A I had not been certified to do nuclear. I had not worked
21 on a nuclear plant prior to coming to McGuire. I had been
22 certified.

23 Q What kind of certification did you have, if you recall?

24 A I don't exactly know what it was. I have taken different
25 tests but I have taken them with outside contractors.

1 Q What kind of welding work had you done before you went to
2 work for Duke? What kind of jobs were you on?

3 A Some of the jobs I was on?

4 Q Yes, when you were doing welding work.

5 A I have been on numerous jobs. With that, I have been on
6 about five power houses.

7 Q Okay.

8 A With that, several bridges, a few high-rise buildings,
9 Chesapeake Bridge, numerous jobs. I have worked on several
10 high-rises here in North Carolina with American Bridge Company,
11 which is a subdivision of United States Steel. I have been
12 with them.

13 Q Doing welding work, Mr. Sifford?

14 A Welding, fitting.

15 Q Okay.

16 A Certain percent of fabrication, yes, all of the time,
17 continuously in that field.

18 Q Okay. When you went to work doing welding inspection at
19 McGuire, were all of the welding inspectors required to have
20 prior craft experience as welders?

21 A They were required to have prior craft experience as welders
22 or have prior experience as inspectors with a nuclear power
23 plant.

24 Q Doing welding inspection or any kind of inspection?

25 A This would be only those that was hired for visual welding

1 inspection.

2 Q They had to have done prior what kind of inspection work,
3 prior welding inspection?

4 A Yes, it would have been on a nuclear power plant.

5 Q I have got you. How long did you work as a welding
6 inspector at McGuire?

7 A From October of '72 until approximately October of 1976,
8 which I quoted prior to this.

9 Q Then you became a supervisor?

10 A I did.

11 Q Okay. Were you supervisor over welding inspectors then?

12 A I was.

13 Q And were you in the first-level supervisor position,
14 essentially the same position you are now in at Catawba station?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q Now, I am sorry, did I understand that it was 1982 or
17 1983 when you transferred over to Catawba?

18 A '83.

19 Q Just this last month then?

20 A You are right.

21 Q Okay. Now, who is on your crew? What welding inspector,
22 Mr. Sifford? I am going to write them down so how about slow
23 down and give me a list of the people on your crew, please?

24 A There was Rick Jones, Carl Souso, Dean Bentley, Eddie
25 Feemster, John Rockholt, Harold Eubanks, Keith Davis. I can't

1 think of the other individual at the present time. I can't
2 get my thinking straight.

3 Q We have got seven. How many do you have on your crew?

4 A Eight.

5 Q Is there one more missing now?

6 A Yes, it is. All new employees' names are not easy to
7 remember.

8 Q These are pretty good. Seven out of eight is not bad for
9 one month.

10 MR. GIBSON: Mr. Guild, we have got a list we can show
11 to Mr. Sifford. Maybe he can spot the name, one of the
12 documents produced for discovery.

13 A I mentioned Rick Jones?

14 Q Yes, sir.

15 A I have got John Rockholt. I mentioned Dean Bentley and Harold
16 Eubanks, Max Reep.

17 Q Mr. Sifford, are you aware that in late '81 and early '82
18 a good number of welding inspectors at Catawba expressed some
19 concerns about what Duke called technical and nontechnical
20 matters, lack of support from the QA management, pressure from
21 craft to approve work that inspectors didn't think should be
22 approved, verbally overriding NCI's that welding inspectors
23 wrote up, things of that sort, are you aware of those concerns?

24 A No more than hearsay.

25 Q ~~When you came to the job at Catawba, did your supervisor~~

1 inform you that there had been these concerns expressed?

2 A They did not elaborate on it.

3 Q Is that where you heard about it?

4 A No, I always used the grapevine technology, whenever it
5 comes from anybody anywhere, so I would say I heard it through
6 the grapevine.

7 Q All right. Now, when you came on at Catawba, who else --
8 I have got a list of the technicians. Was Mr. Ledford already
9 there?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q Okay. And Mr. Harris?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q And Mr. Ross and Mr. Deaton?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Okay. So you are the most recent man to come over as a
16 first-level supervisor?

17 A I am.

18 Q Now, did you have any similar concerns, similar to the
19 ones that I just kind of described by welding inspectors under
20 you when you were at McGuire?

21 MR. GIBSON: Objection, Mr. Guild. How is that included
22 within the scope of the depositions, QA and QC and welding
23 inspection at Catawba?

24 MR. GUILD: I am trying to lay a foundation for asking the
25 witness a series of questions regarding specific Catawba work,

1 but he has only been at Catawba for a month, and the only way for
2 that foundation is through his prior experience.

3 MR. GIBSON: You are not trying to get what he knows into
4 evidence. You are trying to find out what he knows. I don't
5 think a foundation is necessary. I am not going to let him
6 answer questions about concerns he was or was not aware of at
7 McGuire. He can talk to you about Catawba and what he knows
8 about Catawba concerns.

9 MR. GUILD: I don't think there is any way of doing that
10 without laying that foundation, Counsel.

11 MR. GIBSON: You can ask him what he knows about them.

12 MR. GUILD: I would like the question answered the way it
13 was asked.

14 MR. GIBSON: I am instructing him not to discuss any
15 concerns he was or was not aware of of the nature you described
16 at McGuire.

17 MR. GUILD: Let me at least establish whether the answer
18 is affirmative or negative to the question, whether he is
19 aware of those -- whether my question can be answered affirma-
20 tively or negatively.

21 MR. GIBSON: I am instructing him not to answer the
22 question because we are not going to get into that.

23 MR. GUILD: We can work out an agreement about whether
24 to get into it or not get into it but I at least want to know
25 whether the answer is yes or no. If the answer is no, then

1 obviously there is no further questions that can follow, but,
2 Counsel, there is no way I can ask him questions about this
3 area at Catawba without laying the foundation. He has only
4 been there a month.

5 MR. GIBSON: I think you can ask him what he knows about
6 the concerns at Catawba. As I say, I am instructing him and
7 advising him not to answer whether he is or is not aware of any
8 similar concerns, as you have described them, at McGuire.

9 MR. GUILD: Well, we might as well adjourn the deposition
10 because there is no point in asking -- if I can't lay that
11 foundation, I can't ask him any questions about anything that
12 has to do with his opinion.

13 MR. GIBSON: Are you saying you can't ask him questions
14 about concerns at Catawba unless you find out whether or not
15 there were similar concerns at McGuire? You indicated you
16 needed a yes or no answer.

17 Q Do you know anything about the welding concerns at
18 Catawba?

19 A Not at all familiar with them.

20 MR. GUILD: Counsel, unless I can establish a foundation
21 of what he does know and his experience, I can't ask him to
22 express opinions. I can't ask him to comment on procedures.
23 I can't ask him to reflect on changes by comparison between
24 his experience at McGuire and experience at Catawba. I can't
25 ask him anything. We might as well adjourn the deposition

1 and seek a ruling on the matter. I just can't go any further.

2 MR. GIBSON: I am not sure I understand what you mean
3 by laying a foundation. Would you say that again?

4 MR. GUILD: I would desire to ask Mr. Sifford a series of
5 questions about the quality assurance in welding at Catawba,
6 but I can't do that, since he doesn't know about the concerns
7 expressed by the welding, he has only been there a month,
8 without laying a foundation about what his knowledge and
9 experience is to express an opinion. That knowledge and exper-
10 ience is obviously again some place other than at Catawba.
11 Now, if you had worked for Carolina Power and Light Company
12 as a welding inspector first-line supervisor, there is no
13 question I could establish a base of his knowledge and
14 experience. This man happens to have worked for Duke Power
15 Company at the McGuire station, and that's where his base of
16 knowledge and experience is. It seems inescapable to me, the
17 only way to probe that is to ask him that question.

18 MR. GIBSON: You are saying, just trying to understand
19 you, without knowing whether he has some knowledge about
20 similar or dissimilar concerns somewhere else, you don't
21 feel like you can ask him questions about what he knows about
22 Catawba.

23 MR. GUILD: I can't ask him to express an opinion in the
24 vacuum without ---

25 MR. GIBSON: Why would his opinion about those concerns

1 even be evidence in the procedure?

2 MR. GUILD: Obviously you are putting him in a position --
3 you, I mean the company, puts Mr. Sifford in a position of
4 supervising welding inspection, insuring that it meets
5 10 CFR, appendix B, being sure it's consistent with your
6 written procedures at Catawba, et cetera, et cetera. I
7 assume you purport Mr. Sifford is doing his job to make sure
8 the Catawba plant is built right. I can't probe that without
9 establishing his base of knowledge and experiences, period.

10 MR. GIBSON: I am going to confer with Mr. Sifford and Mr.
11 Henry before deciding that.

12 MR. GUILD: All right.

13 (Mr. Gibson conferred with the witness.)

14 MR. GIBSON: Mr. Guild, I think we need to try to strike
15 a balance between our intent to hold this deposition within
16 the scope of Catawba. I will allow him to answer what I under-
17 stand to be your question as posed, but let's have it clear
18 we are not going to go into a detailed analysis of what
19 has or is going on at McGuire. Let's take it question by
20 question.

21 Q Let me try again, Mr. Sifford. The concerns that I have
22 related that you heard about through the grapevine expressed
23 by welding inspectors at Catawba, were any similar concerns --
24 were you aware of any similar concerns in your experience at
25 McGuire?

1 A I would like for you to define "concerns" just a little
2 if you don't mind.

3 Q All right, sir. Are you aware specifically of concerns
4 at McGuire about verbally voiding NCI's?

5 A There were none.

6 Q Okay.

7 A So my answer would definitely be a no.

8 Q Okay. Were you aware of any concerns at McGuire, McGuire
9 inspectors being harassed by a craft?

10 A No.

11 Q All right. Any concerns of inspectors being instructed
12 to approve work that they didn't agree with?

13 A No.

14 Q Okay. Accept weld that they didn't think it was acceptable,
15 sign off on a weld that they didn't agree with?

16 A No.

17 Q How about concern that they weren't getting adequate
18 support from the supervisor in doing their inspection work?

19 A Clarify the question.

20 Q Craft would override their objections to work and
21 that their supervision, the QA supervision, would back a craft
22 and not the welder, not the welding inspector?

23 A Would you ask me that in the form of a question.

24 Q Sure. Were you aware of any people at McGuire expressing
25 that concern, Mr. Sifford?

1 A No.

2 Q Okay. Well, those concerns were expressed at Catawba,
3 and you heard that through the grapevine, and maybe otherwise.
4 Do you have an opinion why those concerns arose at Catawba
5 and not at McGuire? Why were welding inspectors complaining
6 about these things at Catawba and not McGuire?

7 A My opinion would be one that -- the difference in human
8 nature.

9 Q Okay. Human nature among the inspectors?

10 A People.

11 Q Just generally people, all of the people involved in the
12 situation?

13 A Well, I am just saying people react different to different
14 things.

15 Q Okay.

16 A Depending on the surrounding circumstances. My priorities
17 change every minute, and I may react a little different here
18 than I would somewhere else, virtually not that much.

19 Q What I want to focus on -- appreciate that -- what I want
20 to focus on, Mr. Sifford, are those circumstances, those facts
21 and circumstances, or anything different that you know about
22 in the circumstances at McGuire as compared to Catawba. Lay
23 aside the human nature part of it now. Was the work done any
24 different at McGuire than at Catawba, as far as you know,
25 that would account for that?

1 A No.

2 Q Okay. Were procedures any different at McGuire as compared
3 to Catawba that could account for that?

4 A The only thing that I would know about, maybe the heading
5 change, Catawba versus McGuire in that case.

6 Q What do you mean by that, the heading change?

7 A One procedure-- procedure used to have referred to a
8 particular site as a McGuire site, a Catawba site. Now most of
9 them don't refer to a site at all.

10 Q In terms of the QA procedures now you are talking about?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay. Well, so one set of procedures had Catawba at the
13 top, and one had McGuire at the top?

14 A That's the only difference.

15 Q The procedures are the same as far as you know?

16 A They are.

17 Q All right, sir, so there is no difference in the way
18 the work was done. There is no difference in the procedures,
19 just a difference in the people?

20 A We find it everywhere we go.

21 Q What about the difference in the people at Catawba in
22 your judgment accounts for the difference in the experience
23 of a large number of welding inspectors at Catawba expressing
24 these concerns and none of them being expressed at McGuire?

25 What is it, Mr. Sifford?

1 A Some of it could, if there is any, it could be the
2 youth of the inspectors.

3 Q At Catawba or McGuire?

4 A Yes, at Catawba versus McGuire.

5 Q Okay. Is it your opinion that generally the inspectors
6 at Catawba are younger than the ones at McGuire?

7 A No, I am talking about the time frame and the inspection.

8 Q I don't understand. Tell me.

9 A Well, if I meet you out here on the street for ten years,
10 we pretty well know the street, we know where the hole is in
11 the street, and we know what constitutes satisfactory driving,
12 but if it is my first time up the street, I have to get
13 acquainted with it, and this is the type of issue I am looking
14 at.

15 Q Okay. Those kind of things, those experience things,
16 the bugs, so to speak, have been worked out at McGuire and
17 not at Catawba, is that generally what you mean, in terms
18 of inspection?

19 A A few of the bugs probably came in from, whenever I go
20 back to the youth a little bit on that thing, the youth to me
21 is the inexperience that we talk about. At McGuire the
22 individual was -- he came from the welding craft. Some experience
23 in the welding craft had been 10 or 15 years, and then he
24 changed over, and it was his ability to know a good weld whenever
25 he put it in, in essence the same putting the filament material

1 in, and if you take the individual that maybe is inexperienced
2 as an actual welder every time, it's very hard for him to under-
3 stand what it really takes in every case to make a good
4 acceptable, X-ray acceptable weld.

5 Q And you think the people at McGuire were more experienced
6 as actual welders than the people at Catawba, in your opinion?

7 A Certainly that is only an opinion, yes.

8 MR. GIBSON: Are you referring to the inspectors having
9 experience as welders or the welders have more experience?

10 Q We are talking about inspectors now, aren't we?

11 A Yes, we are talking about inspectors.

12 Q So let me understand this. How would a less experienced
13 -- let's say you have got a less experienced welding inspector
14 at Catawba, less experienced as a welder, how would he be
15 more likely to have problems with procedures or find more work
16 that he didn't think was acceptable than somebody who was more
17 experienced at McGuire? What do you think?

18 A Well, a very simple thing in that case could be something
19 as minute as weld spatter. Weld spatter could be dropped
20 from an elevation above. It's had time to cool in the dropping
21 process, and when I talk about cool, I am talking about going
22 from a molten state to a solid state. It's had time almost to
23 reach absolute solid state. It hits on a piece of paper and
24 adheres to the pipe at this point, and he may see that as
25 detrimental. It ain't. It's just not there, and it's a proven

1 fact through X-ray, through metallurgy, through chemical
2 analysis, that has no absolute bearing on that particular piece
3 of pipe, and his inexperience of realizing this through working
4 with the process very well could put him where lots of things
5 are unacceptable compared to acceptables. There is probably
6 numerous other things that we could jerk out of the bag on
7 those things that would fall in those type of things.

8 Q All right. Now, you know that by July of '81 the company
9 reclassified the position of welding inspector? They do that
10 at McGuire as well as Catawba?

11 A Reclassify in what fashion?

12 Q They did a job position analysis and changed the welding
13 inspector pay grade, for one.

14 A Yes, I am aware.

15 Q Okay. Now, do you understand that before that pay grade
16 change, welding inspectors have been required to have a specific
17 amount of welding craft experience before they were allowed
18 to be certified as a welding inspector?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Okay. And afterwards they substituted training in place
21 of that craft experience?

22 A Schooling and training, yes.

23 Q Okay.

24 A Practical experience behind someone or with somebody else
25 monitoring it.

1 Q On-the-job training?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. Following a certified inspector around, helping
4 him to do his work?

5 A I always like to look at it the other way. The certified
6 man is following him.

7 Q Okay.

8 A You can't get no hands-on training if you don't put your
9 hands on them.

10 Q So actually doing inspection with a certified man?

11 A Right.

12 Q But in any event, the experience that you had was not
13 experience in doing actual welds yourself because they didn't
14 require that any more, or welding inspectors, right, after they
15 did the reclassification, you didn't have to have welding craft
16 experience to be a welding inspector?

17 A Agreeable. That's the way I understand it.

18 Q Most of the welding inspectors still have welding
19 experience, right? I am not asking you to count them up. I
20 am saying most of them.

21 A Yes. Now, I am not familiar with those at Catawba per
22 se, the background, excluding those that was transferred down,
23 so I can't -- I hope that that percentage I have got in my
24 mind doesn't reflect every case down there on a case basis,
25 where I am giving you any false information. The only thing I

1 am looking at are those I am aware of.

2 Q Those that you are aware, and that's true at McGuire,
3 you already had a crew of people on who had been hired on earlier,
4 and they stayed on, and so there wasn't a sudden change
5 overnight of suddenly bringing on all welding inspectors who
6 didn't have craft experience, but a few came in, right?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay.

9 A Now, let me clarify that yes statement just a little bit
10 because you asked two or three questions as far as what I am
11 concerned in what you say. In clarification of that, I have
12 none of the employees at Catawba that I had at McGuire.

13 Q Fine. Well, I am just picking on what you have been
14 telling me, Mr. Sifford, and what I am trying to understand
15 is, how is it that you didn't lose out in qualifications of
16 welding inspectors if those welding inspectors don't have
17 to have any welding experience, and you have already told me
18 you think that welding experience is important.

19 A I don't know -- I didn't want to lead you to the understand-
20 ing that it is all that important. Whenever I came out of high
21 school, college has changed since then, and the things that
22 were acceptable now were not acceptable then, and I am
23 saying by that, you can get the same quality out of an
24 individual, depending on the way that you school him.

25 Q Okay.

1 A And these individuals that we talk about, that you mentioned
2 before, to the standpoint why did they find things unacceptable,
3 there is numerous little details that can't be picked up in
4 a very short frame of time, and these individuals may very
5 well have already been out there, maybe should have consulted
6 at this particular point, if he had some real small minute
7 looking thing, or whenever it was. You might even need to
8 talk to another first-line inspector at that point because
9 his point might not have been at all valid on that thing, and
10 at that time maybe those things needed to be discussed with
11 other individuals, if necessary, because I see life a training
12 ground, and, if you please, I am just hitting another milestone
13 today by sitting here looking eye to eye to you.

14 Q We all learn something.

15 A Right on, so I am saying that this employee can be picking
16 up continuously. I pick up occasionally on something.

17 Q Well, I want to talk to you about that stuff. What I
18 want to kind of hold us on for a moment is this question of
19 craft experience because I am interested in your opinion on
20 the subject of the importance or lack of importance of having
21 craft welding experience to do a good job inspecting welds.
22 Let's talk a little bit about NDE inspection. Have you ever
23 been over NDE inspection? Have you ever supervised nondestructive
24 examinations?

25 A I have.

1 Q Okay. Now, you continue to do that now? You are over
2 visual inspection now, right?

3 A I have visual certification. I have had a PT certification.

4 Q What is PT now?

5 A Liquid penetrant.

6 Q Okay. A number of welding inspectors at Catawba, their
7 background is not in welding, their background is doing NDE
8 examination. It came over from doing NDE inspection, got trained
9 and certified and are now visual inspectors. Do you have any
10 of those on your crew?

11 A I do.

12 Q Give me an example of who they are.

13 A Again I have got to kind of watch this thing because
14 everything is new and I have run over certification as far as
15 the individual certification, his level and so on and so forth.

16 Q Just your best recollection.

17 A But I have Max Reep and John Rockholt and Rick Jones,
18 Carl Sousa. All of these are certified in the PT, some of them
19 in PT level 2, some of them in PT maybe level 1 or 2, whichever
20 the same thing holds true.

21 Q Now, all of those people you are talking about, they are
22 not all just certified -- let me start again. Some of those
23 people worked as welders too, didn't they? Do you know?

24 A Yes, we have several of them that worked as welders prior
25 to going aboard, if you please, with the QA department.

1 Q What I am interested in, the question I have is, do you
2 have any welding inspectors that you know of who never worked
3 as welders but whose prior work was in the NDE area and they
4 came over to be welding inspectors?

5 A Well, I think that is true with probably several of those --
6 maybe Max Reep in this case and maybe Rick Jones. I can't a
7 hundred percent say on this stuff.

8 Q All right. Well, focus on then, if they are examples,
9 and maybe they are not, but someone who has done what I have
10 just described, they never worked as a welder and they have
11 worked as an NDE inspector and they came over to get certified
12 as a visual, if you hold everything else equal, okay, Mr.
13 Sifford, can they do as good a job inspecting welds as someone
14 who actually has made welds?

15 A My answer to that would be yes, and the reason is that
16 welding inspection or any inspection that the Duke Power System
17 has set up is nothing more or nothing less than following rules
18 and regulations, and I guess I kind of want to look at it like
19 whenever we passed our driver's license exam, if you please,
20 the reason that we passed is because we abided by the rules,
21 not because we were professional drivers. We took the test and
22 we were given the opportunity but the real sequence or the
23 real factor in the thing is our abilities to take the test in
24 accordance with rules and abide by the rules. And this holds
25 true with anything, in my estimation. It's how well the individual

1 may be schooled in his abilities to follow rules.

2 Q Okay.

3 A Now, we do with these sort of what we want to sometimes.
4 I am not talking about -- let me back up and rephrase that because
5 you can get the wrong interpretation on what I just said. We
6 do with rules sometimes around the house, or fire prevention,
7 anything we want to name, sort of what we want to with it,
8 not Duke Power rules. I want to get that clear now. We don't
9 deal with Duke Power rules what we want to. They are set up,
10 and we are to follow them, and anything any less, we are not
11 being paid for what we ought to, and we are not attempting to.

12 Q Mr. Gibson here and me and lots of other lawyers out there
13 whose job it is to generate stacks and stacks of paper and
14 figure out what those rules mean, Mr. Sifford.

15 A I understand.

16 Q My point is this, someone has got to have judgment and
17 experience to be able to intelligently take a piece of paper
18 that has a written rule on it and know what it means and make
19 it make sense. Don't you agree with that?

20 A I do, and with two different people you still may come up
21 with two different opinions.

22 Q I am talking about welding inspection. You take somebody
23 who is off the street and you teach him all those rules, and
24 he memorizes them and he can spout them out back and forth,
25 but he is looking at a weld. Now, is it your opinion, Mr.

1 Sifford, that a man who can memorize those procedures backward
2 and forward and knows the rules can do as effective a job inspect-
3 ing a weld as a man who knows how to make a weld, a welder?

4 A Run that by me again because I lost a little bit there in
5 maybe a word or two.

6 Q Okay. A man knows what the procedures are, he knows what
7 the standards are, can he do as good a job as a man who knows
8 all those rules and procedures but also knows how to do the work,
9 he knows how to weld?

10 A I think with the schooling we have, yes, and the reason --
11 let me elaborate on that just a hair.

12 Q Sure.

13 A The reason is, that we have got coupons being set up,
14 coupons being small tests to show the rights and the wrongs.
15 We have some that says unacceptable versus acceptable. But
16 they are set up -- some of them is acceptable versus unacceptable.
17 For example, if we had undercutting, undercut being a less
18 amount of base metal right near the weld -- if we had an under-
19 cut and it exceeds what the procedure says, it's automatically
20 unacceptable.

21 Q Okay.

22 A And all the individual does at that particular point
23 is visually, we gain 85 percent of our knowledge by visual,
24 he looks at the thing, he determines at that point that it
25 does exceed the allowable amount, that would make it unacceptable

1 if it did.

2 Q Okay.

3 A Or vice versa.

4 Q Okay. Well then, let me finish this point. When I asked
5 you the first line of questions about the difference between
6 McGuire and Catawba, as you figured it anyway, you told me you
7 thought that it might be accounted for because of the lack of
8 experience by the youth, so to speak, of the inspectors at
9 Catawba versus McGuire, and you explained that to me, I thought,
10 in terms of the McGuire people having more experience as welders.
11 I thought you were telling me that was important, and I under-
12 stood you to say it was important.

13 Now, am I just missing the point, Mr. Sifford, when you
14 are now telling me you don't think it is important in this area?

15 A No, I don't think you are missing the point. I think what
16 is really happening in the thing -- let's be realistic on the
17 thing. You and I weren't born in the nuclear age, do we agree?

18 Q True.

19 A By not being born in the nuclear age, we did not and
20 no one had all of the answers whenever we come aboard with
21 nuclear power, and by not having the answers, all of us have
22 learned through experiences, and with that we had some real good
23 answers, we had some near excellent answers by having the
24 individual, prior to all of the schooling background that we go
25 through now. You see, when we started this program off, there

1 weren't a stack of books up on this end of this table, if we
2 put them on the end of this table out here, whenever we started
3 this program off. I am not saying nuclear power was started
4 in 1970, 1972. It started prior to that, but all I am saying is,
5 we used the available tools that we had up until that time.
6 The available tool was an individual with welding background,
7 and now we have got books and schooling and directions, and it
8 works out identically, it works out identically the same as your
9 law degree. I am sure as soon as they started that thing,
10 they could probably have recorded everything in that magazine.
11 Seriously, let's go back --

12 Q I am not sure it's any better today.

13 A I am going to let you decide that. You carry the law
14 degree. I am not carrying the degree.

15 Q Sure, okay.

16 A I am respecting your degree.

17 Q So am I understanding you are saying basically in the process
18 of getting this program off the ground, you have learned that
19 you can do as effective a job through schooling and training as
20 you thought you had to do through using experienced people before?
21 Is that basically it?

22 A It was a good time to use experienced people before because
23 we didn't have the schooling and the training, and I see now that
24 the schooling and the training does so much for us -- it
25 does what our archaeologists does with some of our land. He

1 determines the age of the thing by some method of calculation,
2 if you please, and by some reading and schooling, so now we
3 are at a point where we use reading and schooling to determine
4 what needs to be done in the inspection program, in comparison
5 to letting the John Doe, if you please, put some of his old
6 basics into the thing.

7 Q Okay.

8 MR. GIBSON: Mr. Guild, it is 12:20. Would continuing
9 for a short while finish?

10 MR. GUILD: Let's take a lunch break and come back about
11 1:30.

12 (Thereupon, the lunch recess was taken from 12:20 p.m.
13 to 1:35 p.m.)

14 Q Mr. Sifford, you have Mr. Reep working for you, don't
15 you?

16 A I do, Mr. Max Reep.

17 Q And Mr. Reep, I understand, filed a harassment complaint.
18 Are you aware of Mr. Reep's harassment complaint?

19 A No, sir, I am not.

20 Q That's the first you heard of it?

21 A It is.

22 Q You have Mr. Rockholt working for you?

23 A I do.

24 Q Now, let me understand this. Whose crew was Mr. Rockholt
25 in when you transferred over to McGuire?

1 A Well, I believe you better rephrase the question. I
2 didn't transfer to McGuire.

3 Q When you transferred from McGuire.

4 A He was in Mr. Ross's crew.

5 Q Okay. Now, did all of the rest of the welding
6 inspectors under you now, Mr. Sifford, transfer over from
7 someone else's crew when you came over from McGuire, or did
8 you take someone else's place when you came over?

9 A It was a split. They split Beau Ross's crew.

10 Q Okay.

11 A And I don't know exactly how many employees was in Beau
12 Ross's crew, but I have eight.

13 Q Okay. And who got the rest of them? Do you know?

14 A Beau still has them.

15 Q He kept the other half of them?

16 A He kept the other amount, whatever the amount is. I am
17 not really sure offhand. I have got an idea but I don't know.

18 Q You took eight from him though? That's where your eight
19 came from, is that what you understand?

20 A Yes, I did.

21 Q Okay. Why did they do that? Do you know? What was your
22 understanding as to why they split Ross's crew?

23 A No specifics given on the thing. My general opinion would
24 be that the size of the crew probably was the reasoning for it.

25 Q Did he have more on his crew than the others, as far as

1 you know?

2 A What little I know about it, yes.

3 Q Okay. How does your crew in size compare to the crews of
4 the other supervisors, first-level supervisors? Do the rest of
5 them have about eight?

6 A I have the general opinion that they are about the same
7 size, and I don't know how many employees the other supervisors
8 have in their group.

9 Q But as far as you know, your opinion is about the same?

10 A As far as I know, they are equal, to be honest with you.

11 Q Okay. Do you have any understanding of who decided which
12 inspectors from Mr. Ross's crew would come over under you when
13 you transferred in? Who split up Mr. Ross's crew? Who
14 decided who went to you and who stayed?

15 A As far as I know, upper management determined that.

16 Q Who would that have been?

17 A I would have to assume that it come under the
18 jurisdiction of whoever was the second-line supervisor or
19 before I got there.

20 Q Okay. Who is the second-line supervisor now?

21 A Mr. Fred Bulgin is my supervisor.

22 Q Okay. And he was there when you got there, Mr. Bulgin
23 was?

24 A No, sir, he and I went the same time.

25 Q He came over from McGuire with you?

1 A He did.

2 Q Okay. And did you work for Mr. Bulgin when you were at
3 McGuire?

4 A I did.

5 Q And you understand that Mr. Art Allum was in Mr. Bulgin's
6 position before he came?

7 A I do.

8 Q You understand or assume that it was Mr. Allum that decided
9 how the split of Beau Ross's crew would be done?

10 A Your guess is as good as mine. I really don't know and I
11 really didn't pursue that.

12 Q Okay. Would it have been his job, as far as you know, or
13 someone above him?

14 A Well, I would say that it would have been his job, that it
15 came through him at least.

16 Q Okay. It wasn't Mr. Bulgin's decision anyway? You know
17 that? Mr. Bulgin didn't decide how Mr. Ross's crew would be
18 split up and who you would get?

19 A I can't answer that, I am sorry.

20 Q You just don't know?

21 A I don't know.

22 Q He might have?

23 A He might have.

24 Q Okay. Did he tell you? Did Mr. Bulgin say "Here is how
25 you are going to get your crew assigned," or words to that effect?

1 A No, sir.

2 Q Who did you get the word from?

3 A Well, I got the word that that would be my crew, and
4 excluding that, I don't know. What we really did on the thing,
5 in essence, to say we split it in accordance to jobs, if you
6 please, reactor 1 versus reactor 2.

7 Q Okay.

8 A I took on reactor 2.

9 Q Okay. And who got reactor 1?

10 A Mr. Beau Ross.

11 Q Did y'all work the same shifts, you and Mr. Ross?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Which shift do you work?

14 A First shift.

15 Q Okay. Are the other first-level supervisors on the first
16 shift or are they on another shift?

17 A At the present time they are all on the first shift.

18 Q Okay. Is there a welding inspection done on other shifts?

19 A There is two inspectors on the second shift right now.

20 Q Okay. Who do they work for?

21 A Mr. Ross, and there may be, it just may be one somewhere
22 else that I am not aware of, and there is second line or there
23 is first-line supervision on the second shift but they are not
24 classified as welding inspection supervision, although ties
25 hand in hand.

1 Q Who does the first level -- I am sorry, who does -- yes,
2 the first-level supervision on second shift?

3 A I believe it is Mr. Dennis Cabe.

4 Q Okay. Does he do MDE's as well? Do you know?

5 A He does RT.

6 Q Okay. What's your opinion of Mr. Rockholt's work?

7 A I guess I would want you to elaborate on opinion in this
8 case a minute.

9 Q Well, you have been on the job for a month and you have
10 had an opportunity to supervise Mr. Rockholt, haven't you?

11 A I have.

12 Q Okay. And as a supervisor, it's your responsibility to
13 evaluate your men's work, is it not?

14 A It is.

15 Q I just want you to give me an evaluation of your opinion
16 of Mr. Rockholt's work. Is it good, bad, indifferent? Is he
17 competent, commendable? Is it marginal? What is your opinion
18 of Mr. Rockholt's work?

19 A What inspection I work behind him on, and his conscientious-
20 ness to procedures, my interpretation at this time is that he is
21 a very competent individual, attentive to detail.

22 Q Do you have any criticism of Mr. Rockholt's work?

23 A At the present time?

24 Q Yes.

25 A No, sir, I do not.

1 Q Okay. Are you aware of any criticism of Mr. Rockholt's
2 work, either now or at any time?

3 A NO, sir, I am not.

4 Q Okay. I am going to show you a series of documents made
5 available to us. On top is a June 27th, 1983, memorandum from
6 Mr. Grier to Mr. Alexander and Mr. Davison, and there is a
7 couple underneath it as well, and it relates to Mr. Rockholt.
8 Have you seen those, Mr. Sifford?

9 A No, sir, I have not. Do I need to read this?

10 Q No, you don't. There is a series of the document, on
11 the back of the document, there is a handwritten document.
12 It is a complaint by Mr. Rockholt concerning Mr. Allum. Were
13 you aware that Mr. Rockholt had complained concerning Mr.
14 Allum?

15 A Yes, I am.

16 Q You knew about that before I showed you these documents?

17 A I am thinking back to the cliché I know about it through
18 the grapevine, through hearsay.

19 Q Mr. Allum is now -- is no longer a supervising welding
20 inspector, is that right? He is over ND?

21 A That's right. I thought he was over mechanical.

22 Q Mechanical?

23 A But I am not sure.

24 Q Okay. Do you have an opinion about Mr. Rockholt's
25 complaint about Mr. Allum?

1 A. I don't guess I do because to me it's one-sided, probably
2 one-sided grapevine is all I have heard.

3 Q Which side -- give me an idea which side you heard.

4 A I guess I probably heard some of Rockholt's. I haven't
5 heard a thing from the other side.

6 Q Do you have any responsibility for acting on that complaint?

7 A Sir?

8 Q Is any part of your job responding to that complaint or
9 acting on that complaint?

10 A I feel like, since I have been chosen to be a supervisor,
11 I feel like it would be some of my responsibility to not promote
12 fictional things but rather promote factual things, and until
13 I have both sides, I don't have anything but fiction, in
14 essence, to say.

15 Q Okay.

16 A I don't know if you really want to say it's fiction, but
17 it's the type of thing I should never elaborate on until I
18 have both sides of the issue. Just because I have one side
19 doesn't make anything fictional.

20 Q This is the comment that Ms. Horne, the employee relations
21 assistant, has in her memo. "We discussed the fact," and she
22 was meeting with Mr. Rockholt, and she says, "We discussed the
23 fact that beginning Monday, June 13th, 1983, John would have
24 a new supervisor, Hap Sifford. Also new would be Fred Bulgin
25 and Gerry Goodman. John said he greatly respected and supported

1 George Grier and Larry Davison and was looking forward to
2 working with his new supervisor. John doesn't intend to bring
3 this issue up again. He has no desire to be labeled a trouble-
4 maker. He feels like it is his duty to bring this problem
5 to management's attention." Have you had any problems with
6 Mr. Rockholt, have you?

7 A No, sir.

8 Q Okay. Here is a memo. It's June 2nd, 1983. It's
9 regarding Mr. Feemster. Mr. Feemster works for you?

10 A He does.

11 Q I want you to take a look at that and tell me first if
12 you have ever seen that before or not. It's again Ms. Horne,
13 employee relations, her memo.

14 A No, sir, I have not.

15 Q Okay. Are you aware of Mr. Feemster having concerns about
16 lack of support from management?

17 A It seems as though I may have heard him say -- make some
18 brief comment on that thing but I believe I am not in a position
19 to elaborate to the standpoint that I don't even remember letting
20 that record in my mind.

21 Q He didn't bring any of those to your attention?

22 A No, sir, he did not bring it to my attention.

23 Q Okay. Is Mr. Feemster a competent welding inspector, in
24 your opinion?

25 A Extremely so.

1 Q Okay. Do you have any criticism of his work?

2 A No, I do not.

3 Q Okay. That's all I have. Mr. Sifford, I appreciate it.
4 I thank you for answering my questions. That's all I have.

5 BY MR. GIBSON:

6 Q Mr. Sifford, are you aware of anything that would cause
7 you to question whether the Catawba Nuclear Station is safely
8 built?

9 A Run the question by me again.

10 Q Are you aware of anything that would cause you to question
11 whether the Catawba Nuclear Station is safely built?

12 A No, sir, not one iota at the present time.

13 MR. GIBSON: Anything further, Mr. Guild?

14 MR. GUILD: Not from me.

15 (Thereupon, the deposition was concluded at 1:55 p.m.)

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1 I, Walter Leon Sifford, hereby certify that I have read
2 and understand the foregoing transcript and believe it to be
3 a true, accurate and complete transcript of my testimony.

4
5 Walter Leon Sifford

6 This deposition was signed in my presence by Walter Leon
7 Sifford on the ____ day of _____ 1983.

8 Notary Public

9
10 CERTIFICATE

11 I, Ann P. Harris, court reporter and notary public, do
12 hereby certify that the foregoing 37 pages are a true, accurate
13 and complete transcript of the proceedings during the deposition
14 of Walter Leon Sifford, that Mr. Sifford was duly sworn prior
15 to the taking of his deposition, and that the parties were
16 present as stated.

17 I also certify that I am not of counsel for nor in the
18 employment of any of the parties, and that I am not interested,
19 either directly or indirectly, in the outcome of the proceedings.

20 This 22nd day of July 1983.

21 Ann P. Harris
22 Ann P. Harris - Notary Public
23 State of North Carolina
24 County of Mecklenburg

25 My commission expires:
June 30, 1986