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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD



In the Matter of)
DUKE POWER COMPANY, et al.)
(Catawba Nuclear Station,)
Units 1 and 2))

Docket Nos. 50-413
50-414

TESTIMONY OF EUGENE MCDOWELL

- 1 Q. STATE YOUR NAME AND YOUR WORK ADDRESS.
2 A. Eugene McDowell, Catawba Nuclear Plant, P.O. Box 223, Clover, SC
3 29710
4 Q. WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT JOB WITH DUKE POWER COMPANY?
5 A. Quality Control Welding and NDE Inspector in all areas of the plant
6 where needed.
7 Q. SUMMARIZE YOUR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS, INCLUDING
8 OTHER NON-DUKE JOBS, EDUCATION, CERTIFICATIONS, AND
9 COMPANY SPONSORED COURSES AND TRAINING.
10 A. I have worked in the Mechanical Construction field with various
11 companies since 1963. I finished high school in 1958, and attended
12 Spartanburg Technical College for two years in Business
13 Administration. I started to work for Duke Power in 1977 at
14 Cherokee Nuclear Plant as a power house mechanic, and transferred
15 to Quality Control Department in 1979. I received Duke's training
16 in welding inspecting, mechanical inspecting, and NDE inspecting.

1 Q. WHAT OTHER JOB POSITIONS HAVE YOU HELD WITH DUKE POWER
2 COMPANY?
3 A. 8-1-77 to 7-9-79 Powerhouse Mechanic (pipe fitting) - Cherokee
4 Nuclear Plant
5 7-9-79 to 2-4-80 Mechanical Inspector - Cherokee Nuclear Plant
6 2-4-79 to 2-2-81 Welding Inspector A - Cherokee Nuclear Plant
7 2-2-81 to present Welding Inspector A - Catawba Nuclear Plant
8 Q. ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH WHAT IS COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS
9 THE WELDING INSPECTOR CONCERNS WHICH WERE EXPRESSED IN
10 LATE 1981/EARLY 1982?
11 A. Yes.
12 Q. WHAT IS YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THESE CONCERNS
13 WERE?
14 A. The main concerns were that inspectors were not getting backup
15 and support from their supervision on inspection decisions.
16 Q. DID YOU EXPRESS ANY CONCERNS AS A WELDING INSPECTOR TO
17 ANY OF THE TASK FORCES OR TO DUKE POWER MANAGEMENT?
18 A. No. I hadn't been at the Catawba plant very long and wasn't
19 involved in the concerns. I was interviewed by Lew Zwissler of
20 MAC for any concerns that I might have had.
21 Q. WERE YOUR CONCERNS WRITTEN?
22 A. No. No documents or concerns were submitted.
23 Q. DID YOU FEEL FREE TO EXPRESS ALL OF YOUR CONCERNS?
24 A. Yes.

1 Q. DID YOU EXPRESS ALL OF YOUR CONCERNS WHEN YOU TALKED
2 WITH MAC?

3 A. Yes. I told Mr. Zwissler that I had no concerns.

4 Q. DID YOU ATTEND ANY MEETINGS WITH TASK FORCE AND/OR QA
5 MANAGEMENT MEMBERS WHERE THE TASK FORCE FINDINGS,
6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WERE DISCUSSED?

7 A. Yes. The concerns were investigated by the Task Force and QA
8 Management and any concerns where the inspector had been told to
9 sign off an inspection were checked out and found to be acceptable.

10 Q. WERE THERE ANY CHANGES MADE IN THE QA PROGRAM AFTER
11 THE WELDING INSPECTOR CONCERNS AND THE TASK FORCE
12 INVESTIGATION OF THESE CONCERNS?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. DESCRIBE THE CHANGES OF WHICH YOU ARE AWARE IN THE QA
15 PROGRAM.

16 A. Supervisors were rearranged in the departments in order to get
17 more backup and support in the QA Program.

18 Q. TO WHAT EXTENT HAVE THESE CHANGES ADDRESSED ISSUES
19 RAISED BY THE WELDING INSPECTOR CONCERNS?

20 A. It is my understanding that no supervisor has the right to
21 reinspect behind an inspector and override the inspector decision or
22 force the inspector to accept an inspection.

23 Q. DO YOU CURRENTLY HAVE ANY CONCERNS WITH THE
24 FUNCTIONING OF THE QA PROGRAM WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN
25 RESOLVED?

1 A. None which concern the quality and safety of the plant. I am
2 concerned about the lack of opportunity for promotion and transfer
3 to other jobs, and I disagree with the pay reclassification of
4 welding inspectors.

5 Q. THE WELDING INSPECTOR CONCERNS HAVE BEEN
6 CHARACTERIZED AS CONCERNS ABOUT THE QUALITY AND
7 SAFETY OF CONSTRUCTION AT CATAWBA. DO YOU AGREE OR
8 DISAGREE WITH THAT CHARACTERIZATION? EXPLAIN.

9 A. I don't believe any of these concerns have affected the safety of
10 construction at Catawba. These concerns were investigated and it
11 was found that all inspections that were accepted were within the
12 code for building nuclear power plants.

13 Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS A BREAKDOWN IN THE QA
14 PROGRAM OR THAT THE QA PROGRAM WAS NO LONGER
15 WORKING? EXPLAIN.

16 A. I didn't have any concerns on inspections and I think Duke has a
17 very good QA Program and that it works very well.

18 Q. DID YOUR CONCERNS REFLECT A BELIEF ON YOUR PART THAT
19 THE CATAWBA PROJECT IS NOT BEING CONSTRUCTED SAFELY?

20 A. No.

21 Q. IN YOUR VIEW, HAS THE QA PROGRAM BEEN EFFECTIVE WHILE
22 YOU HAVE WORKED AS AN INSPECTOR AT CATAWBA?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY DEFICIENCIES IN CONSTRUCTION OR IN
25 THE QA PROGRAM WHICH WOULD CAUSE YOU TO QUESTION
26 WHETHER CATAWBA IS SAFELY BUILT? IF SO, PLEASE EXPLAIN.

27 A. No.

1 Q. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO YOUR
2 TESTIMONY?

3 A. No.
4
5
6

7 I hereby certify that I have read and understand this document, and
8 believe it to be my true, accurate and complete testimony.
9
10
11
12

Eugene McDowell
Eugene McDowell

13

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15 Sworn to and subscribed before me
16 this 13th day of September, 1983.
17

18 Herrie L. Williams
19 Notary Public
20

21

22 Commission Expires March 7, 1993

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Rocket No. 50-413 CH-101 P/N No. 83
to the holder of Catawba
SHIP ✓
Aircraft ✓
Identified ✓
Contracted ✓
Other ✓
Rejected ✓
Reporter Mary Simon DATE 12/1/83