

ORIGINAL
OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Agency: Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Title: Investigative Interview of
George W. Alexander, Jr. (CLOSED)
Docket No.

LOCATION: Cincinnati, Ohio

DATE: Wednesday, June 20, 1990

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EXHIBIT 6
PAGE 1 OF 22 PAGE(S)

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1612 K St. N.W., Suite 300
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(202) 293-3950

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2 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
3 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
4

5 OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

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7 In the Matter of: :

8 INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEW :

9 George W. Alexander, Jr. :

10 (CLOSED) :

11 - - - - -X

12
13 2021 Auburn Avenue

14 Cincinnati, Ohio

15 Wednesday, June 20, 1990
16

17 The above-entitled matter commenced at 2:05 p.m.
18 when were present:

19 RICHARD C. PAUL

20 Office of Investigations

21 U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
22

23 DAVID P. KAMP, ESQ.

24 On behalf of Mr. Alexander
25

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. PAUL: For the record, this is an interview of
3 George W. Alexander, Jr., the spelling of the last name is
4 A-l-e-x-a-n-d-e-r, who is currently employed by the
5 University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.

6 The location of this interview is Cincinnati,
7 Ohio. Present at this interview in addition to Mr.
8 Alexander are Richard C. Paul, P-a-u-l, Office of
9 Investigations, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and also
10 David Kamp, attorney for Mr. Alexander.

11 As agreed, this interview is being tape recorded
12 by court report Gary L. Baldwin. The subject matter of this
13 interview concerns the University of Cincinnati Hospital.

14 Mr. Alexander, please stand and raise your right
15 hand.

16 Whereupon,

17 GEORGE W. ALEXANDER, JR.

18 was called as a witness and, having been first duly sworn,
19 was examined and testified as follows:

20 Mr. Alexander, for the record would you please
21 give me your current position at the University of
22 Cincinnati?

23 THE WITNESS: I have a faculty appointment. I am
24 an associate professor of microradiology and I'm
25 administrative director of nuclear medicine services.

1 MR. PAUL: And how long have you been in that
2 position?

3 THE WITNESS: 24 years now.

4 MR. PAUL: What is your background in radioactive
5 materials handling?

6 THE WITNESS: Nuclear medical technology since
7 1957.

8 MR. PAUL: And do you have an educational
9 background?

10 THE WITNESS: A BS degree in biology at the
11 University of Cincinnati. We opened the first nuclear
12 medicine technology treatment center in the country.

13 MR. PAUL: In 1988 did you have -- Were you
14 associated with the radiation safety office in some
15 capacity?

16 THE WITNESS: Yes. I was administrative director
17 of the radiation safety office.

18 MR. PAUL: And at that time my understanding was
19 that Mr. Ken Fritz was the radiation officer, is that
20 correct?

21 THE WITNESS: Correct.

22 MR. PAUL: Were you Mr. Fritz' supervisor or did
23 you work for him?

24 THE WITNESS: No. I would work for him, quite
25 literally.

1 MR. PAUL: He was your online supervisor?

2 THE WITNESS: That's correct.

3 MR. PAUL: And what were your duties within the
4 radiation safety office?

5 THE WITNESS: You can say as administrative
6 director I was -- perhaps office manager might be the best
7 way to term that, budget responsibilities, keeping the
8 official minutes of the radiation safety committee,
9 paperwork, fiscal matters, things like that.

10 MR. PAUL: At that time, who did Mr. Fritz report
11 to? Who was his --

12 THE WITNESS: He would report to the chairman of
13 the radiation safety committee and the president of the
14 university and from there straight to NRC.

15 MR. PAUL: And that period 1988, who was the
16 chairman of the radiation safety committee?

17 THE WITNESS: I believe Dr. Jerome F. Wiot.

18 MR. PAUL: Is he still currently the chairman?

19 THE WITNESS: No, sir, he's not.

20 MR. PAUL: Who is?

21 THE WITNESS: Judy Harmony until last Friday.
22 She's a Ph.D. ontologist, I believe. Dr. Jim Lazar is now I
23 believe the chairman.

24 MR. PAUL: So if I understand you correctly, part
25 of your duties were to take the minutes of the radiation

1 safety committee.

2 THE WITNESS: We had a secretary for that purpose
3 but I was the keeper of the minutes. I kind of orchestrated
4 the paperwork, if you wish.

5 MR. PAUL: Did you attend the meetings on a
6 regular basis?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes.

8 MR. PAUL: How often did they hold the meetings?

9 THE WITNESS: Quarterly. Sometimes we had more
10 frequently meetings than just quarterly but for the most
11 part they were quarterly.

12 MR. PAUL: In the timeframe of the summer of 1988,
13 do you recall how many health physics technicians were
14 employed in the radiation safety unit?

15 THE WITNESS: As best I can remember, I would say
16 five, four to five.

17 MR. PAUL: And did you have any responsibility as
18 to direction of these health physics technicians?

19 THE WITNESS: No, sir.

20 MR. PAUL: How actually handled the day-to-day
21 supervision of these employees?

22 THE WITNESS: Mr. Fritz was the radiation safety
23 officer and Mr. Jason, who is the deputy radiation safety
24 officer. We made a clear split between technical and
25 administrative aspects of the department.

1 MR. PAUL: At this time I would like to show you a
2 memorandum dated June 30th 1988 on the University of
3 Cincinnati letterhead and it's to radiation safety personnel
4 at the University of Cincinnati and it's from George W.
5 Alexander, Jr., and Kenneth M. Fritz. I'll make this
6 attachment one to the interview.

7 Could you look at this?

8 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

9 MR. PAUL: Do you recall that memorandum?

10 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, I do.

11 MR. PAUL: Did you author it?

12 THE WITNESS: It was more or less a group effort.

13 There were other people involved, such as Ken Fritz, legal
14 counsel, et cetera. Specifically who at that particular
15 time I do not remember. I was certainly a part of it.

16 MR. PAUL: So you did discuss this with the
17 university legal counsel?

18 THE WITNESS: Yes.

19 MR. PAUL: And do you recall who was the legal
20 counsel?

21 THE WITNESS: It would have been Bill Lodge. We
22 had a prior memo in 1986 and there was certain notification
23 and verification through him. He's in the personnel
24 department at the university.

25 MR. PAUL: By "prior memo," what are you referring

1 to -- on the same subject?

2 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

3 MR. PAUL: Was this a memorandum superseding the
4 earlier memorandum?

5 THE WITNESS: That's correct.

6 MR. PAUL: And what was the reason that this memo
7 was authorized at this time?

8 THE WITNESS: The reason was that we wished to
9 keep radiation safety matters in-house in order to be able
10 to attempt more -- how shall I state it -- take care of
11 problem areas.

12 We had a series of incidents where some of the
13 technicians had gone to local news media and a letter was
14 sent to the college of medicine. A letter was sent to the
15 president of the university without the RSO's or the deputy
16 RSO's knowledge.

17 With that in mind, it was to keep them from going
18 to these individuals and then having to answer after the
19 fact.

20 MR. PAUL: So this memoranda was in response to
21 this series of events?

22 THE WITNESS: I wouldn't say it was in response.
23 Instead, I would say it was a memo written to express the
24 chain of command, if you wish, on how to report problems and
25 particularly in-house. It had nothing to do with outside.

1 MR. PAUL: At that time were you familiar at all
2 with the NRC's policy as far as employees being able to
3 freely contact the NRC?

4 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

5 MR. PAUL: And I believe there's an NRC form
6 that's posted.

7 THE WITNESS: That is to employees.

8 MR. PAUL: Was that posted there at that time?

9 THE WITNESS: Oh, yes. In fact, NRC visitations
10 were looked upon -- I remember one specifically was that
11 all notices to employees were posted throughout the
12 university and medical system.

13 MR. PAUL: Did you see this po.'cy or this
14 procedure as set forth in your memorandum in any way
15 conflicting with NRC policy?

16 THE WITNESS: No, sir, I did not. The intent was
17 never there and to my knowledge I never heard anyone say
18 anything about it until the allegations came up.

19 MR. PAUL: Was Mr. Fritz a co-author of the
20 memorandum?

21 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

22 MR. PAUL: As far as your understanding, he agreed
23 with what's detailed in the memorandum?

24 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

25 MR. PAUL: How was the particular memorandum

1 presented to the employees? Was that at a meeting or --

2 THE WITNESS: This would be at a meeting with
3 radiation health technicians with Mr. Fritz and myself.

4 MR. PAUL: And was there a signature required on
5 the memo?

6 THE WITNESS: We requested the signature and it
7 also had along with it, I believe, a dress code, vacation
8 and sick leave policy so there were three items that were
9 addressed at this particular meeting.

10 We further asked if there were questions from the
11 technicians at that time and they said no.

12 MR. PAUL: Subsequent to the issuance of the
13 memorandum, did you ever get any feedback from the
14 technicians themselves regarding this policy?

15 THE WITNESS: No, sir, not until I heard about it
16 through the allegations which took place -- I should say
17 things that were written to the radiation safety committee
18 in January of '89. That's the first I heard of this.

19 MR. PAUL: Was this an official policy of the
20 university or --

21 THE WITNESS: It encompasses the policy of the
22 university, yes, sir.

23 MR. PAUL: And you were in a position where you
24 had the ability to issue policy?

25 THE WITNESS: When you say "issue policy" --

1 MR. PAUL: Or make policy.

2 THE WITNESS: I would answer that question this
3 way. I think that as far as radiation safety is concerned,
4 the radiation safety committee is the only one that issue
5 policy. Certainly not me.

6 MR. PAUL: Was the radiation safety committee
7 aware of the memorandum?

8 THE WITNESS: They were aware of this at the next
9 meeting after this went out.

10 MR. PAUL: Do you recall when that meeting was?

11 THE WITNESS: I do not, no, sir.

12 MR. PAUL: Do you recall if there was a health
13 physics technician by the name of (REDACTED)

14 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

15 MR. PAUL: And the best I understand, (REDACTED) left
16 employment of the University of Cincinnati sometime earlier
17 than -- sometime before the issuance of this memorandum.

18 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

19 MR. PAUL: Do you recall how much earlier? Do you
20 recall when (REDACTED) left?

21 THE WITNESS: I probably can if you want me to
22 look it up.

23 MR. PAUL: Sure, if you don't mind.

24 THE WITNESS: I could give you an approximate date
25 anyhow. I think this would have been in '83 or '84. (REDACTED) was

1 -- This is an official () in May of '84 so it would
2 have been after that. Probably '84 or early '85.

3 MR. PAUL: Did you have any participation in ()
4 () leaving?

5 THE WITNESS: I was in attendance concerning this.

6 MR. PAUL: Do you recall why () left?

7 THE WITNESS: I believe that () left -- I don't
8 know what specific statements the university made relative
9 to () leaving. I don't know. () 6, 7

10 ()
11 MR. PAUL: Was there any connection between ()
12 () and this particular policy?

13 THE WITNESS: I think that certainly the policy
14 which was written in '86 and this one were probably somewhat
15 initiated by his type of actions.

16 We consistently fought fires. I mean it's a heck
17 of a thing to wake up and find yourself on television or in
18 the newspapers in the morning when you knew nothing about
19 it.

20 MR. PAUL: Not having seen the earlier memorandum,
21 were you the author of that earlier memorandum, also?

22 THE WITNESS: A group effort again but that
23 memorandum, that particular one, I am absolutely positive
24 Bill Lodge did approve.

25 MR. PAUL: What was the difference -- What was the

in entire

1 change --

2 THE WITNESS: I've got it here.

3 MR. PAUL: Actually they're pretty much the same.

4 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

5 MR. PAUL: Was the June 30th '88 memorandum
6 reiteration of that policy?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, and the subsequent
8 notification process was a reiteration of both of them but
9 perhaps spelled out a little bit more clearly.

10 MR. PAUL: Could I get a copy of that after this
11 meeting?

12 THE WITNESS: Surely.

13 MR. PAUL: In regards to the earlier memorandum,
14 was there any concerns expressed by the health physics
15 technicians regarding the earlier memo?

16 THE WITNESS: No, sir. There has never been any
17 concern expressed until January of '89 and yet consistently
18 all during this period, beginning with (REDACTED) up until the
19 present, NRC has been notified many, many times of problems
20 by these techs so I think that kind of speaks for itself.

21 MR. PAUL: Did you have any participation in the
22 NRC inspection in August of '88? First off, do you recall
23 it?

24 THE WITNESS: August of '88. NRC has -- You have
25 to please understand that they have been here constantly for

1 about three years now so to pinpoint a date -- Perhaps I
2 did. I really don't remember that.

3 MR. PAUL: Do you remember at all the -- Did you
4 participate at all in the inventory of the sealed sources
5 that the university --

6 THE WITNESS: No, sir.

7 MR. PAUL: Do you ever recall in this timeframe
8 that there was an issue of missing sources?

9 THE WITNESS: No, sir, not until July of '89 did I
10 ever hear anything about that.

11 MR. PAUL: In reading the memorandum it's my
12 understanding then that the radiation safety committee
13 actually set policy within -- as to radiation safety and it
14 was implemented by Mr. Fritz and yourself.

15 THE WITNESS: That's correct. By Mr. Fritz, not
16 me.

17 MR. PAUL: So just for the chronology, I believe
18 it was early '89 or late '88 that the health physics
19 technicians came forward with numerous concerns.

20 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

21 MR. PAUL: And was it at that time that they went
22 before the radiation safety committee?

23 THE WITNESS: I believe that was in January of
24 1989, that's correct, and the allegations that were made --
25 We had a special radiation safety committee, a subcommittee

1 was formed of which I was a part of that subcommittee and we
2 addressed all of those concerns and this was one of the
3 concerns.

4 MR. PAUL: The memo?

5 THE WITNESS: Right.

6 MR. PAUL: Specifically as to the memo and the
7 policy it sets forth, how was this handled by the radiation
8 safety committee? Did they look into the specific issue as
9 to this allegation?

10 THE WITNESS: Not really look into it because I
11 believe that everyone felt across the board that it in no
12 way involved NRC.

13 I mean it's -- As I told Mr. Kamp, this was so
14 cross-grained to me not to be able to call NRC about
15 something that you don't even consider it. I never have. I
16 personally view it as a regulatory agency and people who can
17 help you, not deter you.

18 MR. PAUL: It's my understanding they brought --
19 by "they" I mean the health physics technicians brought it
20 to the committee as a concern, is that right?

21 THE WITNESS: That's correct.

22 MR. PAUL: Was there any followup taken by the
23 committee to address this concern?

24 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, and that was in written
25 form.

1 MR. PAUL: I believe it was authored by Dr. Wiot.

2 THE WITNESS: Dr. Wiot, yes, sir.

3 MR. PAUL: At that time as a result of the
4 radiation safety committee taking action as to this issue,
5 was it your understanding that the health physics
6 technicians were satisfied with the resolution of this
7 problem?

8 THE WITNESS: Absolutely. I still never heard
9 them say they couldn't call NRC directly.

10 MR. PAUL: Regarding the subsequent issues that
11 came up in August of '89 regarding -- First, were you aware
12 of the issue that came up regarding the withholding of
13 inventory cards from the NRC?

14 THE WITNESS: No, sir, not until July of '89.

15 MR. PAUL: And how did you become aware of it?

16 THE WITNESS: I was witness to a conversation
17 between the RSO and the deputy RSO, like I'm sitting over
18 there in that chair listening to the conversation, and
19 something was said I believe that Mr. Estes had filed a
20 letter with the Department of Labor and also NRC relative
21 to, I believe, some missing inventory cards, et cetera.

22 I wrote this down specifically because I thought
23 that perhaps someone may ask the question. Again I was not
24 involved in this but I did hear it.

25 Ken Fritz asked Prince Jason what Ray Estes was

1 talking about in his letter and he said he did not know.

2 Ken asked Jason is there anything missing and
3 Jason said no, there is nothing missing. I had no
4 involvement. I really didn't even know what they were
5 talking about.

6 MR. PAUL: When did you make the note?

7 THE WITNESS: At the time because the sequence of
8 things going down, I would lose my brains if --

9 MR. PAUL: Was it common for you to make notes of
10 conversations?

11 THE WITNESS: I write everything down as a general
12 rule.

13 MR. PAUL: Did this conversation take place after
14 the issue came out or was this --

15 THE WITNESS: This was after. I believe he filed
16 that letter in June.

17 MR. PAUL: Fritz did or --

18 THE WITNESS: No, this would have been Ray Estes.

19 MR. PAUL: Filed his Department of Labor
20 complaint?

21 THE WITNESS: That's correct and that was in June,
22 I believe.

23 MR. PAUL: And that's the first that the issue
24 regarding missing sources came up that you were aware of?

25 THE WITNESS: That I ever heard about. You always

1 hear something about a microcurie source or something, where
2 is it and you'll find it and that sort of thing but this was
3 a little bit different.

4 MR. PAUL: Did you have any further participation
5 in the evens as far as notification of Dr. Wiot and the
6 followup that was done on it?

7 THE WITNESS: I had nothing to do with it, period.

8 MR. PAUL: We'll go off the record.

9 (Discussion off the record.)

10 MR. PAUL: Back on the record.

11 As a result of this memorandum or policy that are
12 detailed from '86 on, was any disciplinary action ever taken
13 against an employee as a result of this policy? Do you
14 recall?

15 THE WITNESS: I think Ray Estes had I think a
16 Department of Labor investigation and no discriminatory
17 action or punitive damage, however you want to state it, was
18 ever taken against him.

19 MR. PAUL: Did you participate at all in any
20 discussions that resulted in Mr. Fritz and Mr. Jason being
21 suspended?

22 THE WITNESS: No, sir. I was called to Dr. Wiot's
23 office at the same time they were as a witness to that
24 suspension.

25 MR. PAUL: And what did Dr. Wiot give as the

1 reason for their suspension?

2 THE WITNESS: He simply stated they were going to
3 be put on administrative leave.

4 MR. PAUL: He didn't give a reason?

5 THE WITNESS: Let me see what I have here. Each
6 to be placed on administrative leave with pay pending
7 outcome of a current investigation relating to
8 irregularities of the university radiation safety program.

9 MR. PAUL: Dr. Wiot didn't elaborate?

10 THE WITNESS: No, sir.

11 MR. PAUL: Did he just read the letter to them?

12 THE WITNESS: No. This was done for my records on
13 that, after the fact.

14 MR. PAUL: But at the time he --

15 THE WITNESS: He did relate to them that there was
16 something about some missing records and I think they asked
17 -- let me think.

18 I think Ken wanted to know from Jason what was the
19 problem and this went back and forth a couple of times and
20 then there was something said about missing records and that
21 was kind of it.

22 MR. PAUL: As to this issue of the missing records
23 and missing sources, is my understanding correct that you
24 have no firsthand knowledge of this?

25 THE WITNESS: No knowledge whatsoever.

1 MR. PAUL: One other thing. There was -- It was
2 my understanding that Dr. Silberstein chaired a subcommittee
3 to look into the --

4 THE WITNESS: Yes, that was the subcommittee I was
5 referring to.

6 MR. PAUL: Did Dr. Silberstein discuss with you
7 this particular memo that we made attachment one?

8 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. At that point -- that
9 meeting was I believe held in February of 1989 and what I
10 had been instructed to do after that meeting was to revise
11 the memo but to make sure that we had legal counsel on it as
12 well, which had always been our way of proceeding.

13 I sent a copy of that memo to Bill Lodge and
14 apparently in the university system -- you went to school
15 there, you'll understand that it got lost.

16 It got down to about May and I still had not heard
17 anything and at that point in time was when we took the bull
18 by the horns and went ahead and directed the new one and
19 that submitted in July with legal counsel interpretation.

20 MR. PAUL: This new policy, the one that was
21 detailed in '89, is the current policy?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

23 MR. PAUL: We'll go off the record.

24 (Discussion off the record.)

25 MR. PAUL: Back on the record.

1 Mr. Alexander, have I or any other NRC
2 representative here threatened you in any manner or offered
3 you any reward in return for this statement?

4 THE WITNESS: No, sir.

5 MR. PAUL: Have you given the statement freely and
6 voluntarily?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

8 MR. PAUL: Is there anything further you would
9 care to add for the record on the matter?

10 THE WITNESS: I would only say that if that
11 notification process memo was improperly worded, then I am
12 truly sorry, but the intent was never to restrict
13 information being provided to NRC.

14 MR. PAUL: The interview is concluded.

15 (Whereupon the matter concluded at 2:37 p.m.)
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceedings before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

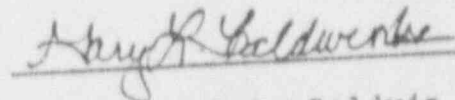
in the matter of:

NAME OF PROCEEDING: Interview

DOCKET NUMBER:

PLACE OF PROCEEDING: Cincinnati, Ohio

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.



Gary L. Baldwin
Official Reporter
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