

338

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

---

---

In the matter of:

Interview of D. J. Mast

Docket No.

---

---

Location:

Pages: 1 - 17

Date: June 17, 1982

8506030174 831110  
PDR FOIA  
BERNABE83-A-9 PDR

TAYLOE ASSOCIATES

Court Reporters  
1625 I Street, N.W. Suite 1004  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 293-3950

1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
2 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

3  
4  
5  
6  
7 Interview of D. J. Mast

8  
9  
10 June 17, 1982  
11 Palo Verde Nuclear Station  
12  
13

14 Investigators: E. J. Power  
15 O. C. Shackleton  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

P R O C E E D I N G S

INVESTIGATOR: -- J. Mast, last name M-a-s-t.

Mr. Mast is an electrician employed by Bechtel Power Corporation Unit 1 of Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station.

Present for this interview from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is E. J. Power and myself, O. C. Shackleton, investigators for Region V of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Mr. Mast, do we have your permission to tape record this interview?

MR. MAST: Yes.

7(A)

1  
2 7(A)  
3  
4

5 INVESTIGATOR: Our next area of interest, Dan,  
6 relates to the improper splicing of quality control, the  
7 quality class safety related cables. Have you ever known  
8 of any situation or been asked to splice quality class cables.  
9 Like in the trade. I don't mean at a termination.

10 MR. MAST: No.

11 INVESTIGATOR: Or there's been damage done to a  
12 cable.

13 MR. MAST: Splicing it without a card, or --?

14 INVESTIGATOR: Yes, without a card, without QC,  
15 without an engineer --

16 MR. MAST: No, I've never been asked to do that.  
17 I don't know of anybody that's ever done that.

18 INVESTIGATOR: We have an allegation that there  
19 was some damage done by welding.

20 MR. MAST: Oh.

21 INVESTIGATOR: Slag came down, -- casing of the  
22 cable and rather than de-terminate it, pull the cable, the  
23 heat shrink tube was, (inaudible) installed in covering up  
24 the damaged area and cables were pulled over the top so you  
25 couldn't see it. Do you know any circumstance like that?

1 MR. MAST: No.

2 INVESTIGATOR: Another area of allegation concerning  
3 the, is a violation of cable de-termination procedures. Where  
4 you fellows, a craft, de-terminated a cable that was bought off  
5 by QC and then later, Startup, or someone else, comes along  
6 and de-terminates without following proper procedure, the  
7 documentation and so on, and you guys later find that when  
8 you're doing work that somebody had done an improper termina-  
9 tion or maybe not even reconnected it again.

10 Have you ever had any situations like that?

11 MR. MAST: I heard a lot about it, and I had run  
12 into a couple of them in particular, I believe it was \_\_\_\_\_  
13 switches and such. I'm not certain if they had gone through  
14 all the paperwork, but I remember terminating one and later  
15 on seeing it de-terminated \_\_\_\_\_ going through the right  
16 paperwork.

17 INVESTIGATOR: For my own information, Dan, does  
18 that relate to class Q work?

19 MR. MAST: That particular one was black cable;  
20 it was in class Q.

21 INVESTIGATOR: It was in class Q.

22 Is that -- did that happen relatively recently, or  
23 is it some time in the past?

24 MR. MAST: Oh, that probably was first of the year;  
25 January, February.



1                   INVESTIGATOR: Is it still a discussion among the  
2 journeymen it being a problem? You said you heard it from  
3 others.

4                   MR. MAST: No.

5                   INVESTIGATOR: Because you're starting to go into  
6 a startup phase now.

7                   MR. MAST: Well when they started issuing, going  
8 into different tagging procedures and such, they were --  
9 well, people were a heck of a lot more cautious, and when  
10 you get to a Q class cable, you treat it like gospel. You  
11 know, because you mess up one of them, and that's just, you  
12 know, all sorts of paperwork --

13                  INVESTIGATOR: (Simultaneous discussion.)

14                  MR. MAST: But as far as I know, I haven't seen,  
15 you know, something that can be terminated that I knew, you  
16 know, that someone done it under the sly or something.

17                  INVESTIGATOR: Dan, I don't know whether, within  
18 the time frame of your last employment you may have any  
19 knowledge of this next area, but it relates to the improper  
20 insulation, the high voltage termination. And what I'm  
21 talking about here is they have a, well, we've learned -- they  
22 had a problem with some of the material they were using to  
23 close up a termination; wrap it up, called Scotch Fill.  
24 The rubber pad -- as I understand, Scotch Fill is some type  
25 of a maleable compound that they use to --

1 MR. MAST: I'm not -- I'm not really familiar with  
2 it.

3 INVESTIGATOR: Are you using 130 C now?

4 MR. MAST: Tape?

5 INVESTIGATOR: Tape.

6 MR. MAST: Yes.

7 INVESTIGATOR: Okay, but you haven't gotten  
8 directly involved in it?

9 MR. MAST: I haven't done it; I haven't done any  
10 taping in so long, I can't remember. They changed the  
11 procedure on that (inaudible). They were using (inaudible),  
12 I believe, and then they went back to Scotch. But they  
13 sent out a paper to change --

14 (Simultaneous discussion.)

15 INVESTIGATOR: Okay, Dan. The next interesting  
16 point that was given to us is concerning terminations like  
17 when you fellows run a field cable up and terminate to an  
18 electric motor, and the pecker-head on the motor's got a one-  
19 bolt lug. And I guess typically on the larger cables you've  
20 got a two-bolt lug. Bear with my ignorance, because I may  
21 not have it correct --

22 MR. MAST: All right.

23 I haven't made up that many motors, so --

24 INVESTIGATOR: Have you ever worked where you have  
25 a two-bolt lug or the field cable, or the one-bolt lug on

1 what you had to connect it to?

2 MR. MAST: No, I don't believe I have. I've made  
3 up very few motors, and most of them were small motors with  
4 fractional horsepower and such. You probably refer to the  
5 bigger motors.

6 INVESTIGATOR: Yes. Primarily bigger motors.

7 The next issue is QC inspectors. The QC inspectors  
8 that are assigned by Bechtel to the electrical inspections of  
9 doing it, inspections of the work that you fellows do, by  
10 your observations and experience do you feel that they are  
11 properly doing their job and seem to be knowledgeable and  
12 qualified to do what they are doing?

13 MR. MAST: Yes. The ones that I've had come watch  
14 me I think do their job just fine.

15 INVESTIGATOR: Have you ever observed or even  
16 heard of stories among the plant where QC inspectors have been  
17 overridden by construction? By this I mean intimidated,  
18 where a guy might want to hang a red tag and a foreman comes  
19 along and tells them, Get that damn thing off of there, it's  
20 all right, you don't know what you're doing?

21 MR. MAST: Construction intimidating QC?

22 INVESTIGATOR: Yes.

23 MR. MAST: No, I don't know that either.

24 INVESTIGATOR: Do you feel, then, Dan, that from  
25 what you observed in your plant QC operates freely?



1 MR. MAST: I believe so, yes.

2 INVESTIGATOR: That they are really quality control?

3 MR. MAST: I believe so.

4 INVESTIGATOR: Independent from construction.

5 Most of the men -- I'd be interested to  
6 know how you feel -- you feel you have appropriate time to  
7 do your work?

8 MR. MAST: More than ample time to do it.

9 INVESTIGATOR: So you feel there's no reason why  
10 you guys shouldn't be able to do a quality class job.

11 MR. MAST: Right. I've really never run into  
12 anything where I didn't have enough time. They give you  
13 time limits sometimes, and if you don't get it done, they  
14 just make a new time limit. So you've got your own speed  
15 anyway, so --

16 INVESTIGATOR: So you feel that you guys are  
17 able to do quality work?

18 MR. MAST: I can speak for myself, yes.

19 INVESTIGATOR: Do you work in pairs, Dan, or do  
20 you work singly?

21 MR. MAST: On and off probably 50 percent of the  
22 time. It varies.

23 INVESTIGATOR: How long have you been in the  
24 craft, Dan?

25 MR. MAST: Well, since my apprenticeship,

1 approximately seven and a half years. I was close to the age.

2 INVESTIGATOR: What's the apprenticeship for an  
3 electrician?

4 MR. MAST: Four years.

5 INVESTIGATOR: Have you done any high potting since  
6 you've been out here?

7 MR. MAST: Yes.

8 INVESTIGATOR: One of the allegations we have is  
9 that in some cases that excessive high potting on the same  
10 cable, have you ever observed or heard of this?

11 MR. MAST: No. I helped with two high pots, we  
12 did (inaudible).

13 INVESTIGATOR: Well, the information we have is  
14 that the excessive high potting isn't being done by the  
15 craft, but it's being done by some of the Bechtel engineers  
16 who didn't seem to know how to do it or it was done by  
17 Startup who came along and did high pot testing after.

18 MR. MAST: Is that right!

19 INVESTIGATOR: Construction had already done it.  
20 Have you ever heard anything like that?

21 MR. MAST: I never heard anything like that.

22 INVESTIGATOR: Do you have any installations where  
23 you are working with conduit where you've used O rings for  
24 integrity where the conduit comes into a box, connecting box?

25 MR. MAST: Are you referring to a fitting like a

1 Myers, sort of a brand name, Myers --

2 INVESTIGATOR: It might be, I wouldn't know.  
3 What I'm talking about, and the way it's described to me, it's  
4 like where you have a conduit and you've got a slip ring on  
5 it with thread, and you've got thread on the top of the box.  
6 And then you've got an O ring that acts as a washer that  
7 compresses to give it watertight integrity to pull the  
8 conduit down tight.

9 MR. MAST: Okay. I think I know what you're  
10 talking about. (Inaudible) connector, a \_\_\_\_\_ connector?

11 INVESTIGATOR: You'd know the terminology.

12 MR. MAST: I'm assuming that's what you're talking  
13 about.

14 INVESTIGATOR: Have you done any installation of  
15 those? Now, the area I'm talking about is in the control  
16 building down at 100 foot elevation. Have you worked in  
17 that area?

18 MR. MAST: Very little in that area.

19 INVESTIGATOR: The allegation we have is that for  
20 one period of time Bechtel didn't have the O rings available  
21 for about six months. And the electricians were told to go  
22 ahead and do the installations even though they didn't have  
23 the O rings. Did you ever hear anything about that?

24 MR. MAST: No.

25 INVESTIGATOR: And you've never participated in

1 any installation like that?

2 MR. MAST: No.

3 INVESTIGATOR: The next subject, Dan, is a  
4 situation where you guys have to make a new penetration,  
5 maybe going from the wrap-around building in the containment  
6 or something where you've got to run a new line, new cable  
7 or something, and they've accidentally drilled into conduit.  
8 Have you ever heard of any such thing?

9 MR. MAST: (Inaudible).

10 INVESTIGATOR: Yes, when they're drilling, taking  
11 their core, (inaudible) you know, penetration, they hit  
12 conduit.

13 MR. MAST: I've never run into that or heard  
14 about it.

15 INVESTIGATOR: Talking about that, have you ever  
16 heard of an electrician by the name of Jerry Stewart? Or  
17 Jim Williams?

18 MR. MAST: Jerry Stewart sounds familiar; I'm not  
19 certain if I know him, though.

20 INVESTIGATOR: There's a couple guys we are trying  
21 to find who are no longer here. Once they leave here, it  
22 gets a little bit difficult. (Inaudible). They were possibly  
23 involved in some of these things that we're asking you about,  
24 and we'd like to talk with them.

25 MR. MAST: That may well have been before I came out.



1 INVESTIGATOR: It could well have been.

2 Last question off of this list; nothing relates  
3 specifically to electrical installation, but it's one that  
4 we're concerned about because of the implication it has on  
5 the plant. And that's the use of drugs on the site. I'm  
6 talking about controlled drugs; marijuana, hashish, cocaine,  
7 all the various amphetamines like black beauties and so on.  
8 And we're not naive; we've been around the world a little bit.  
9 We know we've got it, but we wonder how bad it is. We're  
10 getting allegations of different -- different people. And  
11 you're on the young side, and it's usually the younger side  
12 that knows more about it. What is your observation?

13 MR. MAST: I've smelled pot out there. I can't  
14 say I haven't.

15 INVESTIGATOR: Is there any particular area of  
16 the plant where you felt it's been in use more than any  
17 others? Do they have some favorite place as a hideout where  
18 they can sit and smoke?

19 MR. MAST: No, I haven't smelled any in quite a  
20 while, but when I did it was, I believe it was up in about  
21 the third floor of auxiliary or control.

22 INVESTIGATOR: Underneath the control room?

23 MR. MAST: Well, in the auxiliary -- in that area  
24 between that and control.

25 INVESTIGATOR: Have you heard any discussions

1 amongst people about the drug traffic on site?

2 MR. MAST: Well, I know what's out here; I don't  
3 particularly get into it. I do some -- I have, and I don't  
4 particularly care to do it out on the job.

5 INVESTIGATOR: Well it's something that just doesn't  
6 have its place here, just like booze, you know. We don't want  
7 people drinking here, either. Whether it's marijuana or  
8 whether it's alcohol, it has the same effect on a workman.  
9 He's not going to be sharp, and if he's (inaudible). Safety  
10 for himself and others, but what he's doing he can't do a very  
11 good job if he doesn't have control of all his faculties.

12 Gene, do you have any other questions?

13 INVESTIGATOR: No.

14 INVESTIGATOR: Dan, we appreciate your cooperation  
15 and --

16 INVESTIGATOR: Is there anything that you would  
17 like to talk to us -- oh, any concerns, anything?

18 MR. MAST: I would like to make a statement as  
19 far as, what I've seen as far as the quality of work. I think  
20 most of it is exceptionally good as far as the electrical end  
21 of it, as far as mechanically sound, I think -- as a matter of  
22 fact, I think some of it is just way overkill, you know.

23 INVESTIGATOR: Well, of course you know a lot of  
24 this redundancy is for safety purposes.

25 MR. MAST: Yes, I understand that. But I can't say

1 it's not a good installation, from what I've seen.

2 INVESTIGATOR: Good.

3 Anything else you'd like to say, Dan, before we  
4 terminate the interview?

5 MR. MAST: I believe that's all I need to say.

6 INVESTIGATOR: Okay, this will be a -- close, then,  
7 the interview on Mr. Mast. And the time is now approximately  
8 2:24 p.m.

9 - - -

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25