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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the matter of:

Interview of John H. Schuh

Docket No.

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7 Interview of John H. Schuh
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10 June 17, 1982
11 Palo Verde Nuclear Station
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14 Investigators: E. J. Power
15 Owen Shackleton
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P R O C E E D I N G S

INVESTIGATOR: This is an interview of Mr. John H. Schuh, last name is spelled S-c-h-u-h. Mr. Schuh is an Electrician presently working for Bechtel Power Corporation at Unit No. 1, the Palo Verde Nuclear Generation Station.

Present to conduct this interview from the NRC is E. J. Power and myself, O. C. Shackleton, Investigators assigned from Region V.

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

MR. SCHUH: Yes, you do.

INVESTIGATOR: Thank you.

(Pause.)

7(A)

1 (Speakers off mikes, inaudible.)

2 INVESTIGATOR: John, the next issue is splicing
3 a quality class safety-related cable. We have an allegation
4 that some cable that was damaged by welding slag or hadn't
5 been covered by a welding blanket, and rather than de-terminat
6 it and pull it, a shrink tube kit was used and the damaged
7 area was covered up; other cables were pulled over so it
8 couldn't be seen, and they went on about their business.

9 Have you ever known any situation like that?

10 MR. SCHUH: This has not happened to my knowledge.
11 Now let me tell you this, -- (inaudible) I'd say a year in
12 that round -- you know, it could have happened before my time;
13 I couldn't tell you. Not to my knowledge and not since I've
14 been on the crew.

15 INVESTIGATOR: You (inaudible) basically?

16 MR. SCHUH: Yes. I come from a terminating crew,
17 Joe Sandival's _____ to the high voltage.

18 INVESTIGATOR: Can you splice a quality class?

19 MR. SCHUH: Yes, I can.

20 INVESTIGATOR: I mean, are you authorized on the
21 site to do it? I didn't mean from your technical performance,
22 but if it's required, procedurally can you splice a quality
23 class cable? Or what would be the circumstances in which
24 you (inaudible). Under what circumstances can you do --

25 MR. SCHUH: As far as terminations on --

1 INVESTIGATOR: Not terminations; a splice now.

2 MR. SCHUH: No, no you can't. That, I've never
3 done it and I've heard that they don't do it.

4 INVESTIGATOR: That's what I'm interested in.

5 MR. SCHUH: Okay.

6 Don't try to stump me, because I --

7 INVESTIGATOR: Oh, no, no, no. We're not --

8 (Simultaneous discussion.)

9 INVESTIGATOR: Any question that you don't under-
10 stand; we're not electricians, we're investigators. We're
11 not attempting to put you in a position to say Hey, you just
12 (inaudible). I want to make sure that you understand the
13 question so that we understand your answer.

14 MR. SCHUH: Okay, what I know of, I've never done
15 one and I've heard that they don't. So we'll put it that way.

16 INVESTIGATOR: Do you know whether or not that's
17 procedurally wrong; where it's in writing that you don't splice
18 --

19 MR. SCHUH: No. I couldn't state my view on that.

20 INVESTIGATOR: You've never had access to the
21 procedures --

22 MR. SCHUH: Right.

23 INVESTIGATOR: John, the last subject has to
24 do with following cable de-termination procedures. We have
25 allegations that some of the men doing terminations have done

1 the termination and they just bought off by QC, and they go
2 off to do some other work and then eventually they get back in
3 the same area to do some work and they find the terminations
4 that they've done before have been de-terminated by somebody
5 and been re-terminated and maybe done not as neatly as had
6 been done originally by the craft, and may not even be done
7 properly. And there's no documentation nor was there any QC
8 involved.

9 And the allegation we have is it's being done by
10 Startup. Have you had any experiences like that?

11 MR. SCHUH: I haven't actually seen, but there was
12 an instance that came up -- I couldn't tell you how far back
13 -- that Startup had done something like that through human
14 error. One thing through the other, steps weren't taken but
15 they were -- I know they jumped on it and they corrected 100
16 percent, you know, what it should have been and jumped on
17 Startup for doing it. Like I said, this is, you know, we're
18 all human, and something like that's going to come up through
19 all these years of terminating.

20 INVESTIGATOR: What we're really concerned about,
21 is it a continuing problem?

22 MR. SCHUH: No.

23 INVESTIGATOR: You haven't had that experience.

24 MR. SCHUH: No. I can definitely say no.

25 INVESTIGATOR: The next subject matter addresses

1 the use of a type of insulation material used on high voltage
2 terminations, and what I'm referring to is that we have infor-
3 mation that in effect that there was a problem here for a
4 while, they were using a product called Scotch Fill. And
5 because of the high temperatures that we experience out here
6 in the desert climate, the stuff was melting, and a lot of it
7 was running out of the terminations. And so they changed and
8 went to 130 C. Is that --

9 MR. SCHUH: Yes, this did happen. And to my
10 knowledge, I think they took and went over every single one
11 of them joints, or anything that was made up of that, and
12 I know I've done a lot; re-wrapped and took off the stuff.
13 And so that would be up to engineering, depending if it was
14 fulfilled as far as -- covered the whole job, I am sure it
15 was.

16 INVESTIGATOR: Did you do some of the retrofit on
17 safety-related?

18 MR. SCHUH: No.

19 INVESTIGATOR: The next issue, John, relates to
20 a situation where -- (end of recording side).

21 MR. SCHUH: -- at first, but now the engineers
22 were letting us use a spacer bolt in there as far as making
23 it up (inaudible).

24 INVESTIGATOR: What do you do now, specifically?
25 You used to put a bolt --

1 MR. SCHUH: Well, now they're letting us do that.
2 Before it was just one hole without a (inaudible).

3 INVESTIGATOR: Did you wrap it then, or what?

4 MR. SCHUH: Yes. Yes, we went through the wrap
5 with specs and the tape and so forth, put on a motor kit.
6 It depends on what kit they want you to use and what circum-
7 stances are involved.

8 INVESTIGATOR: Okay. The next question relates to
9 QC inspectors. In your opinion, the QC people that come and
10 inspect your work, John, do you feel they are doing an
11 adequate job, that they appear to be adequately trained?

12 MR. SCHUH: Yes, I do. I feel that they are
13 adequately trained, but I also feel that in every form of
14 life, whether you go priests, electricians, you people, you've
15 got better and you've got worse. And that's all I'll say
16 on that.

17 INVESTIGATOR: Did you have skillful people on
18 that?

19 INVESTIGATOR: But overall, basically they're
20 doing an adequate job as far as the check on --

21 MR. SCHUH: Yes, as far as -- yes, I feel that way.

22 INVESTIGATOR: Have you ever had any experience,
23 John, where you've observed or heard of where QC inspectors
24 have been intimidated by construction management; foremen,
25 GFs, superintendent where an example would be where a QC

1 felt that something should be red tagged and a foreman tells
2 him not to hang it, and so he doesn't.

3 MR. SCHUH: No, that's not --

4 INVESTIGATOR: Why I'm asking you, do you feel
5 QC is allowed to do their job freely here?

6 MR. SCHUH: Carries their authority?

7 INVESTIGATOR: Yes.

8 MR. SCHUH: Yes, I do.

9 INVESTIGATOR: Have you done any high pot testing?

10 MR. SCHUH: Yes, I have.

11 INVESTIGATOR: One of the problems that has been
12 brought to our attention is that some of the lines have been
13 high potted more than one time. Have you ever seen any
14 excessive high pot testing?

15 MR. SCHUH: That I have ever done; no, and to my
16 knowledge, I feel I haven't seen one over twice that has
17 been done. If something comes up, like if we have a direct
18 line from the panel and you've got to label (inaudible) come
19 up and hook your line up, something like that; well of course
20 you're going to have to shut the baby down and start it over
21 again, but that's about what I'm talking about as far as
22 having to be done more than once.

23 INVESTIGATOR: John, do you have any installations
24 where you brought -- I guess it has to be through a conduit;
25 a termination into a box where you use O rings; you know they

1 have a fitting at the top, and have an O ring _____, to
2 give it integrity from water?

3 MR. SCHUH: Right. OZ terminators?

4 INVESTIGATOR: I don't know what they call them.

5 MR. SCHUH: Uh-huh.

6 INVESTIGATOR: You've done some of those?

7 MR. SCHUH: I've done one.

8 INVESTIGATOR: Okay.

9 MR. SCHUH: I got on the crew a little later, they
10 were doing quite a bit of them.

11 INVESTIGATOR: Have you always had the O rings you
12 needed, or -- you only did one. Did you have an O ring for
13 that one occasion?

14 MR. SCHUH: Yes, we did.

15 INVESTIGATOR: Did you ever hear any discussion
16 amongst the craftsmen that there were times when they didn't
17 have O rings?

18 MR. SCHUH: No. I always thought that it was --
19 we had to take one out one time in a turbine; they had to saw
20 it in half and different things like that. They had it -- due
21 to the Three Mile Island change, they had to take this baby
22 out. We had to saw that in half and as far as moisture fill
23 or anything else, I was very impressed the way that, you know,
24 device functioned. Very impressive.

25 INVESTIGATOR: The allegation was that there was

1 a period of about six months when there were no O rings
2 available and some installations -- they were told to keep on
3 going. And we're trying to find out if that's true.

4 MR. SCHUH: Not that I know of.

5 INVESTIGATOR: Have you ever observed or heard of
6 a situation where they're doing core drilling to make a pene-
7 tration in the wall to run another pipe, conduit or cable,
8 and they've hit an existing conduit and done damage to it?

9 MR. SCHUH: No, I haven't.

10 INVESTIGATOR: And the last item, John, is not
11 having anything to do directly with your craft, but with a
12 problem that we face all over in the country, and that is
13 your opinion or observations or knowledge of the use of
14 controlled drugs on the site. What I'm talking about specifi-
15 cally is use of marijuana, amphetamines, hashish, cocaine.
16 We know we've got it here because we've had substantial
17 information given to us, but we're trying to determine how
18 big a problem we have. Have you observed it or known of it,
19 or --?

20 MR. SCHUH: I would say like you. I would say
21 it's probably out here, but I haven't seen none of it. The
22 use of it -- you know, I never deal with the stuff and I
23 don't see anybody in the crews or anything else. But that's
24 not saying it's not here.

25 INVESTIGATOR: I understand. Have you smelled pot

1 smoke when you were working, or --

2 MR. SCHUH: Yea, you'll pick up fumes of it. It's
3 not at other -- the job has slacked down, you don't ever see
4 it anymore, you know. But yes, I think it's apparent that
5 it's out here.

6 INVESTIGATOR: John, is there any situation out
7 here or hardware or procedure relating to safety-related
8 equipment that you think that our Commission, the NRC, ought
9 to give attention to that you feel is not being properly
10 addressed?

11 MR. SCHUH: No, I really don't. I feel the
12 people have the time and time to get the material and the
13 men have the time to put it in, and I think everything is
14 pretty qualified work here, and it runs pretty smooth.

15 INVESTIGATOR: You've answered my next question.
16 Apparently you feel satisfied with the work you've observed?

17 MR. SCHUH: I do. You know, I don't -- you give a
18 man a certain amount of time, and you have the check by
19 engineering staff, you have the check by QC; I don't see
20 really any fault in it, you know, as far as poor craftsman-
21 ship putting it in. I don't see how -- because if somebody
22 sees a bad run of pipe, usually the next day somebody is out
23 straightening it up even if it's nothing to do with safety
24 or anything, just to keep the crafts. You know, we're having
25 a hard time battling non-union now, and I'm sure I feel like

1 a hundred others of us; all's we got is our qualification
2 to show, you know, and our skilled labor. That's the way
3 I feel.

4 INVESTIGATOR: Gene, do you have any additional
5 questions?

6 INVESTIGATOR: Nope. I just want to know if you
7 know a couple guys. Do you know a Mike Ostad -- is it Mike
8 Ostad?

9 INVESTIGATOR: Mike Ostaff?

10 INVESTIGATOR: That may be. I don't know if
11 that's the correct pronunciation.

12 MR. SCHUH: He might be a -- if it's who I'm
13 thinking of, he's a wire pour foreman.

14 INVESTIGATOR: A wire pour foreman?

15 MR. SCHUH: Yes, now I think his name's Oswalt.

16 INVESTIGATOR: Oswalt?

17 MR. SCHUH: Yea, now I might be, you know --

18 INVESTIGATOR: No, that's all right.

19 MR. SCHUH: There's a ton of guys out there.

20 INVESTIGATOR: Yes. I think there are 900-some
21 electricians.

22 INVESTIGATOR: Yes, there's a slew of them out there.
23 How about a Jim Williams?

24 MR. SCHUH: No, I don't.

25 INVESTIGATOR: Jerry Stewart.

1 MR. SCHUH: No, I don't know.

2 INVESTIGATOR: Okay.

3 I'll terminate this interview now, and we thank
4 you very much, John. The time is now approximately 12:53 p.m.

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