

348

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

---

---

In the matter of:

Interview of James B. Sweet

Docket No.

---

---

Location:

Date: June 28, 198<sup>2</sup><sub>3</sub>

Pages: 1 - 28

8506030313 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 James B. Sweet  
8  
9

10 June 28, 1982  
11 Palo Verde Nuclear Station  
12  
13

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

P R O C E E D I N G S

VOICE: This is an interview of Mr. James, middle initial "B" as in Baker, Sweet. The last name is spelled S-w-e-e-t.

Mr. Sweet is an electrician presently working for Bechtel Power Corporation assigned to the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station in Arizona.

Present to conduct this interview from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is Mr. E. J. Power and myself, Owen C. Shackleton, both of whom are investigators for Region V of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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

MR. SWEET: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you.

7(A)

7(A)

Next situation I want to address is the spiking of quality product safety-related cables and we have an allegation tht there was a circumstance in the -- where some quality class cable got damaged by welder's slag, dropped out of the tray and burned and some . . . and rather than pull the cable, one of the guys involved got a kit and repaired it and never got QC involved or never did any paperwork and never got it . . . from there.

Have you ever heard of any situation like that?

MR. SWEET: No, that's hard to believe that a QC would (inaudible).

INTERVIEWER: You don't get involved yourself in any --

MR. SWEET: No, I've just noticed it. In fact, it would bother me to have a man looking over my shoulder all the time.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

So, the next one, in view of the first one we got the doctor to start up, one of the allegations we have and maybe you have experienced it when you were working high voltage terminations, but guys were told, they are coming back in areas where they work and their work has been bought

1 off and finding that (inaudible) have been reterminated by  
2 somebody or maybe put back and not put back in a neat fashion.

3 Some people we have talked to have said, well,  
4 startup guys would sometimes -- and you've been on both sides  
5 of it. Is it a problem or not a problem here in your experi-  
6 ence?

7 MR. SWEET: No, it wasn't a problem. I have seen  
8 it done maybe once or twice. There wasn't any problem since  
9 we go ahead and fix it, you know. We terminated like a large  
10 motor, something like that, and a few weeks later there'd be  
11 some problem. They wouldn't tell us what it was because we  
12 couldn't reterminate it and maybe they'd even pull in new  
13 cables or something and reterminate it again.

14 There's been very little reterminating, usually  
15 when you get the same guys to terminate it as to reterminate  
16 the startup, usually from my experience I haven't seen men  
17 really becoming (inaudible) in high voltage.

18 INTERVIEWER: If they do as part of personnel  
19 (inaudible) do they have to have a retermination (inaudible).

20 MR. SWEET: The way I understand it, any cable that  
21 is reterminated here is supposed to have a card on it. I  
22 reterminated several and I had to get a card to do it.

23 I don't know if everyone does that. That is the  
24 procedures.

25 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, yeah.



1 INTERVIEWER: The next subject was the improper --  
2 the use of improper insulation on high voltage termination.

3 Do you understand that up until approximately a  
4 year ago, you fellows used a material called Schotch Fill 2200  
5 and apparently from the temperatures we experience out here,  
6 that material was leaking and coming out through your wrapping  
7 and then they changed 130-C.

8 Were you involved in some of that?

9 MR. SWEET: Yeah, I was.

10 INTERVIEWER: Did you fellows have a retrofit  
11 program? Did you have to go back on quality class work and  
12 redo it or not?

13 MR. SWEET: I know when they told us what materials  
14 to use, we knew it was the wrong one, but they said this  
15 has been substituted, has been okayed and substituted for  
16 what we were supposed to use. It is okay to use, so we went  
17 ahead and used it and it did -- we did have a problem with it  
18 and I didn't go back and reterminate it, I don't recall why  
19 but someone else did it, what was to be done and that's about  
20 all I know about it.

21 We knew it was the wrong -- it wasn't the right  
22 fill to start with.

23 INTERVIEWER: Uhh-hmm.

24 MR. SWEET: We told them so and they said -- they  
25 showed me the paper that said it had been substituted.

Side 2.

1 INTERVIEWER: Do you know whether or not any  
2 NC audits were written up on it?

3 MR. SWEET: I'm sure they were.

4 INTERVIEWER: But as far as you are concerned when  
5 you were personally involved, everything was done according  
6 to --

7 MR. SWEET: Right --

8 INTERVIEWER: paperwork was there --

9 MR. SWEET: And Reggie wasn't to blame because it  
10 came down to him, whoever okayed.

11 INTERVIEWER: That's why we're trying to tie some  
12 of these down because we have heard from a couple of people  
13 that question what they find -- incompetent electricians,  
14 Bechtel for one reason or another wants their own way . . . .

15 MR. SWEET: Anything that has been done, if there  
16 has been any question at all to my knowledge has been redone.  
17 You know, there has been a few things that was questionable  
18 but then they come back --

19 INTERVIEWER: They come back where?

20 MR. SWEET: They even pull new cable in and you  
21 know --

22 INTERVIEWER: They let you make up for it, won't  
23 they?

24 This is connecting of bolt lugs and we have an  
25 allegation that some of the field cables you guys run have a

1 two bolt lug on the end of them and sometimes you go and  
2 connect it to a motor and the thicker head has a one-bolt  
3 lug connecting?

4 Did you ever run into that situation where you  
5 had a two-bolt lug to a one-bolt lug?

6 MR. SWEET: Well, yeah, I've run into it but we  
7 didn't use a two-bolt lug. We made our own lugs to fit the  
8 motor. If it's the wrong lug on there, we cut it off and  
9 put a new one on. We'd either drill it, use a blank lug and  
10 drill it to fit or if there is a two-bolt lug, we cut it off  
11 and used the one bolt that would fit properly.

12 We never connected them like that.

13 INTERVIEWER: Did you ever have to fill the void?

14 MR. SWEET: There really wasn't any void.

15 INTERVIEWER: No, I meant -- yeah, you never left  
16 the two bolt?

17 MR. SWEET: No, no.

18 INTERVIEWER: That was the allegation.

19 MR. SWEET: I'd say that wasn't done, either one.  
20 If it was done, it was done (inaudible) because like I say  
21 just (inaudible) was there and I know none of the guys would  
22 do that.

23 INTERVIEWER: Horace Hall, George Miller, (inaudible)  
24 Bill Coloni, Bob Hendrickson, Gerry Lefebvre -- who is the  
25 other one? Couldn't say. Isn't that something?



1 INTERVIEWER: Is that the roster there?

2 INTERVIEWER: Yeah. This crew has changed so much  
3 it's -- Gunderson, Coctello -- was he high voltage?

4 MR. SWEET: Oh yeah, Bob Otello -- he, see I quit,  
5 that was the 8th -- John Coctello and went down 8th.

6 INTERVIEWER: He's gone and Gunderson's gone.

7 MR. SWEET: And then when I quit, they replaced me,  
8 two guys came in the crew and then they started pushing pretty  
9 often but we were in there together. . . . for almost a  
10 year and a half.

11 Oh, and Lew -- Polish name or Bohemian name --  
12 boy, I was (inaudible) on one. I worked with the guy all of  
13 the time and I can't think of his name. He is in Unit 3 now.

14 INTERVIEWER: I'll see if I can find out.

15 INTERVIEWER: Cary Wallerstein?

16 MR. SWEET: Well, he used to do terminations but  
17 not high voltage.

18 INTERVIEWER: We don't have any Lew's.

19 Let me go on here.

20 MR. SWEET: Okay. Costello took his place, I be-  
21 lieve. I am not even really sure about that.

22 INTERVIEW: The next question, Jim, relates to  
23 the QC people who are inspecting the work being performed  
24 by the wiremen.

25 From your observation, do you feel they have

1       adequate training to do their job?

2               MR. SWEET: I've always been associated with three  
3       on Unit 2 and you know I'd say they are very good.

4               INTERVIEWER: Are you working on Unit 2 now?

5               MR. SWEET: Yes.

6               INTERVIEWER: But you did the high voltage termina-  
7       tions (inaudible).

8               MR. SWEET: Right.

9               INTERVIEWER: How about the QC over there?

10              MR. SWEET: Yeah, they , they were good.

11              INTERVIEWER: Who did you know?

12              MR. SWEET: (Chuckles.) I'm trying to think, I  
13       really don't remember their names. I didn't get familiar with  
14       them on Unit 1 as I had on Unit 2 for some reason. I became  
15       friends with a couple of them on Unit 2; Unit 1 they were  
16       just in the way all the time. Maybe I got used to them, I  
17       don't know.

18              INTERVIEWER: Do you feel that QC either in Unit 1  
19       or Unit 2, from what you observed on site, are able to work  
20       intependent from construction and freely do their job without  
21       being intimidated?

22              MR. SWEET: Oh yeah, they do.

23              INTERVIEWER: When you were working, well, let's  
24       start out by, I don't know enough what I am talking about, do  
25       you do high filing and startup?

1 MR. SWEET: Yes, uh-hmm.

2 INTERVIEWER: One of the allegations we have is  
3 observations made by some people is that their feeling that  
4 there has been excessive high filing on the same cables.

5 Have you observed this where there has been exces-  
6 sive high filing?

7 MR. SWEET: Yes, definitely. On Unit 1.

8 INTERVIEWER: On Unit 1?

9 Can you give us some details of where this was  
10 observed and was it on a quality class line?

11 MR. SWEET: No, I don't believe it was quality  
12 class. It was out in the manholes, the (inaudible)  
13 and we did -- first of all, the cables had a lot of moisture  
14 in them. We dried them out and this took quite a while. When  
15 I found them first, and then we dried them out and then we  
16 high filed them again -- anyway some of the cables were high  
17 potted maybe three or four times and I don't think they recom-  
18 mend over twice, I'm not sure about that.

19 It's a 750 NCN cable and they definitely were high  
20 potted too much.

21 INTERVIEWER: Was this brought to the attention  
22 of management, namely say anything to the foreman about it?

23 MR. SWEET: Oh, well, yeah, they knew about it.

24 INTERVIEWER: Why was it done so many times?

25 MR. SWEET: Because of the extent of the moisture.

1 It had a lot of moisture in it.

2 INTERVIEWER: Had to dry them out to get a good --

3 MR. SWEET: Right, and I believe that we spliced  
4 them and I believe some of them were cut out and repulled.  
5 I am not sure about that. I didn't have anything to do with  
6 that but I believe they were.

7 INTERVIEWER: Who was the foreman on the job?

8 MR. SWEET: Richard Keith was the high voltage  
9 termination (inaudible).

10 INTERVIEWER: This was basically all non-safety  
11 related?

12 MR. SWEET: Yeah, it's non-class.

13 INTERVIEWER: How about on the startup . . . .  
14 are you required to do the same documentation on the high  
15 pot?

16 MR. SWEET: I imagine the foreman is. We don't.

17 INTERVIEWER: You don't directly?

18 MR. SWEET: No.

19 (Pause.)

20 Ah, let me see now, usually now Unit 1, I haven't  
21 done very much on Unit 2 -- in fact I haven't done any high  
22 filing on Unit 2 -- Unit 1 there was always an engineer with  
23 us and he did the documentation.

24 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

25 MR. SWEET: He did it right there.



1 INTERVIEWER: Even though it was not safety-related?

2 MR. SWEET: Right.

3 INTERVIEWER: -- this excessive moisture in the  
4 water, how did that come about? Improper storage or what?

5 MR. SWEET: Well, the manholes, they had a lot of  
6 rain that winter and the manholes just got flooded.--

7 INTERVIEWER: I see.

8 MR. SWEET: -- and the end of the cables in some  
9 way or another soaked up the moisture.

10 INTERVIEWER: Did you pull the moisture out through  
11 the casing?

12 MR. SWEET: Well, we pumped oxygen - nitrogen and  
13 got it out.

14 INTERVIEWER: The next subject has to do with in-  
15 stallation of conduits, connections in the control building  
16 in the 100 foot elevation and the concern expressed here was  
17 there was an admission of the use of O rings in many cases,  
18 that there were no O rings available.

19 Do you know anything about that subject.

20 MR. SWEET: No, you'd have to get up on top of the  
21 cabinet. I had no reason to get up there. The only thing  
22 I can see and I asked a QC man about it, cushions on the  
23 inside of the cabinets on the nipples coming down, I asked  
24 him why some of them didn't have cushions. He said as long  
25 as they were bevelled on the inside they didn't need it. All



1 conduit and all nipples are supposed to be bevelled inside  
2 and I didn't -- I just took his word for it but it didn't seem  
3 right to me.

4 INTERVIEWER: Do you remember any discussion about  
5 the shortage of O rings?

6 MR. SWEET: No. I hadn't heard a thing about it.

7 INTERVIEWER: Okay.

8 The next subject, Jim, has to deal with damaged  
9 conduit from drilling and not being properly repaired. What  
10 we are talking about here, we had a allegation that in the  
11 aux building there was some drilling going through some of the  
12 walls and they were they were taking the cords out and put  
13 (inaudible) conduit and apparently the guys doing the drilling  
14 hit the conduit and did some damage?

15 MR. SWEET: I don't know anything about that either.

16 INTERVIEWER: Who does -- the way we understand,  
17 the electricians don't do that drilling. That is done by  
18 someone else, I would think?

19 MR. SWEET: The core drilling is contracted defi-  
20 nately I guess. It's just --

21 INTERVIEWER: Do you know the name of the contractor?

22 MR. SWEET: I hope so. I've seen the truck enough.  
23 (Pause.) I can't think of it.

24 INTERVIEWER: But it is done by a another contractor?

25 MR. SWEET: Yeah.

1 INTERVIEWER: Then who would do the repairs, Jim,  
2 of the conduit?

3 Is that done by the wiremen or --

4 MR. SWEET: That would be our work, yes.

5 INTERVIEWER: Do you have patching crews that you  
6 know of that when you work on --

7 MR. SWEET: I'll tell you the truth, I've never  
8 heard of anybody who was patching . . . conduits, is that  
9 what you want, a (inaudible) conduit?

10 INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

11 MR. SWEET: I don't know any way of patching  
12 (inaudible) conduit.

13 INTERVIEWER: Have you ever run into an Offstadt?

14 MR. SWEET: Offstadt?

15 INTERVIEWER: Yeah, guy by that name, close to it,  
16 Offstadt, Mike Offstadt?

17 MR. SWEET: No.

18 INTERVIEWER: Nobody involved in patching?

19 INTERVIEWER: Bob Lunt? Known as -- he has a nick-  
20 name?

21 MR. SWEET: Bob -- that sounds familiar but I  
22 still can't place him.

23 Lunt -- I don't think I know him at all.

24 INTERVIEWER: Now you're working over in 2 now, we  
25 have an allegation in 2 that down on the lower level, we don't

1 have any specific detail of anything but the way I understand  
2 it, unit struts were used for supporting the table trays or  
3 piping when they're welded in place and they go on there,  
4 attached to an embed plate and the QC inspector makes an in-  
5 spection and as I understand it, he has a dolly he strikes  
6 with a hammer and makes his symbol on the embed plate to show  
7 he's bought off.

8 And we have been told that there has been some  
9 hard feelings between some of the crafts and QC, some of the  
10 crafts and some of the construction foremen and they're modi-  
11 fying some of the unit struts after they're bought off --  
12 which is apparently supposed to be pretty obvious so it gets  
13 the QC or the foreman in trouble.

14 Have you heard anything about that?

15 MR. SWEET: No.

16 A lot of times there is hard feelings between those  
17 craftsmen and QC, the QC guy's been hired off the street. You  
18 have got these welders in, welding for 20 -25 - 30 years and  
19 the QC man tells him the weld's not right or something like  
20 that, you are just bound to get hard feelings.

21 INTERVIEWER: Oh, sure, yeah --

22 MR. SWEET: But generally --

23 INTERVIEWER: The last item, Jim, doesn't relate  
24 to work itself but a problem we face all over the country,  
25 the use of controlled drugs.

1           We have an allegation that there is an excessive  
2 amount of controlled drugs, primarily marijuana, but also  
3 hashish, cocaine and some of the amphetamines like black  
4 beauties that are being used on site.

5           What is your experience and observations?

6           MR. SWEET: I've seen a little bit of pot and I've  
7 seen a few guys drink a little bit. Overall, I've seen less  
8 on this job than I have any job I've ever been on -- of these  
9 jobs.

10          INTERVIEWER: Umm-hmm.

11          MR. SWEET: I suppose it is here but boy -- and I've  
12 worked all over. I have refused to work with a guy who smokes  
13 pot. I don't work with him, or if he drinks and only one  
14 time that I have worked with a guy that started to smoke pot  
15 and I did the work with him and that was it.

16          INTERVIEWER: Is that guy still here?

17          MR. SWEET: No.

18          INTERVIEWER: Jim, this is only for my own edifi-  
19 cation, what does Manson do? What does the union do if some-  
20 body -- if you don't want to work for somebody, you have to  
21 go back . . . and say for whatever reason I am not happy with  
22 the guy I am assigned to work with. Does the union take any  
23 action?

24          MR. SWEET: Oh, if you take it (inaudible).

25          INTERVIEWER: I meant just as a normal routine.



1            Say you've gotten stuck with a guy drinking on the  
2 job this morning and you go to your foreman and say, hey, this  
3 is not for me -- what happens?

4            MR. SWEET: Well, personally I wouldn't tell the  
5 foreman he's drinking, I'd just say "I don't want to work with  
6 the guy, personality conflict or if he is falling down drunk  
7 I'd tell the foreman to get him off the job or I'd get him  
8 off the job or something.

9            As far as telling the foreman that he is drinking  
10 or smoking pot, I'd only leave it unless he was -- he might  
11 hurt someone, but like I say I wouldn't work with him but  
12 I wouldn't go tell if they were doing it either. I mean that's  
13 me personally.

14           INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

15           INTERVIEWER: We're prepared. We've heard the  
16 comments before. A good portion of them -- don't want to work  
17 with -- safety . . . .

18           INTERVIEWER: Then I would have the next question,  
19 like I just asked, would be then well, what happens to the  
20 individual? Do they carry him or do they force him off the  
21 site one way or another?

22           MR. SWEET: Eventually they are fired, yeah. You  
23 take a guy that drinks on the job. He's going to -- .

24           INTERVIEWER: He is just not going to last. .

25           MR. SWEET: No, he's going to get fired sooner or



1 later and same with smoking pot. He is going to get caught  
2 sooner or later so they get awful brave with it and I have  
3 seen my (inaudible) have not seen out here, that and a little  
4 guys' drinking and drinking -- the only drinking I have seen  
5 was around the holidays and that is all I have seen and I  
6 have been here almost four years now.

7 I have read it in the paper about all of the drugs  
8 and everything and, oh, a little bit bought and sold in the  
9 parking lot and stuff like that but as far as use on the job,  
10 well, I haven't seen hardly anything as far as our construc-  
11 tion job was, it is amazing to me.

12 I just don't understand -- when I read that in the  
13 paper, I couldn't hardly believe that they -- I guess --

14 INTERVIEWER: Well, yeah, yeah, well --

15 INTERVIEWER: You never know how factual some of  
16 this is. Some guy sees one sale maybe. It's just hard to  
17 tell.

18 MR. SWEET: A lot of times you'll have a crew of  
19 three or four young guys on the crew and maybe they'll kind  
20 of stick together and smoke pot together, they go hide some-  
21 place and smoke and maybe somebody's seen that, I don't know  
22 but as long as you're asking.

23 INTERVIEWER: Well, Jim, you've been in this craft  
24 about 14 years and worked on other sites and whatnot, what is  
25 your opinion of the craft and work that you have seen done

1 here? Are you satisfied that it's satisfactory? What is your  
2 opinion?

3 MR. SWEET: The workmanship?

4 INTERVIEWER: Umm-hmm.

5 MR. SWEET: The conduit overall is good, I have  
6 seen better but it's good. On a job that's IG got such a  
7 turnover, especially with Bechtel -- most people don't like  
8 that and Bechtel with all their rules -- I don't mean --  
9 every nuclear power has rules and regulations but Bechtel,  
10 they keep things stirred up all the time with the men. They  
11 think the men are scared of the job or something they'll do  
12 better work. I don't know what there philosophy is but every  
13 job I have been on with Bechtel, it seems they try to do this  
14 and therefore you have a heck of a big turnover plus when  
15 you have as many quit, Bechtel makes money, when they hire  
16 and fire or a guy quits, Bechtel makes money each time a  
17 gater comes in. They like that too.

18 But even with the big turnover and all that, I  
19 would say the workmanship was above average. I have seen  
20 better and I have seen worse.

21 I will say it again, I'll say this for Bechtel,  
22 I've never seen a nuke run the way this one is, QC you know  
23 and everything, procedures, everything -- in fact it drives  
24 you crazy sometimes but they are really super about it, I  
25 will say that for them.

1 INTERVIEWER: Jim, is there any concerns that you  
2 might have that you feel that our engineers when they are  
3 out doing their inspection ought to be looking into where  
4 maybe not giving enough attention now?

5 MR. SWEET: I am really not familiar with what you  
6 guys -- in fact or anything else --

7 INTERVIEWER: Okay, our engineers get into primarily  
8 almost exclusively to the safety-related items, those things  
9 if they went haywire could endanger the health and safety of  
10 the public or the people working in the plant, so during the  
11 construction period that is what they are looking into.

12 Okay, I don't have any additional questions.

13 Jim, I appreciate very much your giving us your  
14 time and we will bring this interview to a close and the time  
15 is now approximately 11:47 in the morning on June 28th, 1982.

End  
interview.

16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25