

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the matter of:

Interview of Sus Yoshimoto

Docket No.

Location:

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Date: July 13, 1982

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8 Interview of Sus Yoshimoto
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12 July 13, 1982
13 Palo Verde Nuclear Station
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16 Investigators: John Berdoine
17 Owen C. Shackleton, Jr.
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1 INVESTIGATOR: This is an interview of Mr. Sus
2 Yoshimoto. The last name is spelled Y-o-s-h-i-m-o-t-o.
3 This interview began at 9:45 a.m. on July 13th, 1982.

4 Present to conduct this interview from the U.S.
5 Nuclear Regulatory Commission is Mr. John Berdoine, Reactor
6 Inspector; and myself, Owen C. Shackleton, Jr., Investigator
7 from Region V of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

8 Mr. Yoshimoto, do we have your permission to
9 tape record this interview?

10 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Yes.

11 INVESTIGATOR: Now, in response to your question,
12 where we got your name was initially from a fellow that
13 went before the -- now, he didn't go directly, but he pro-
14 vided testimony for the Atomic Safety and Licensing Review
15 Board. And he made -- by the time I singled out all his
16 allegations -- I have seventeen different things that he
17 identified -- and he was a former employee, an electrician,
18 here.

19 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Okay.

20 INVESTIGATOR: And he has asked that his name be
21 kept out of it, and we respect that.

22 But one of the problems that he had identified
23 was this alleged sabotage type operation that was going on,
24 he said over in Unit 2. He said this was done in a lower
25 elevation to the control building of Unit 2.

1 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Uh-huh.

2 INVESTIGATOR: And it was done to give you and
3 Ray Woods, a general foreman with Bechtel, and --

4 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Ray Wood is a superintendent.

5 INVESTIGATOR: He is a superintendent. His
6 real name is Raymond Wood. It's not plural.

7 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Right.

8 INVESTIGATOR: W-o-o-d.

9 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Right.

10 INVESTIGATOR: Okay.

11 MR. YOSHIMOTO: See, I was a general foreman.

12 INVESTIGATOR: Okay. And Yoshimoto, general
13 foreman for the electrical union, because the men would get
14 mad at him for firing a craftsman for such things as drink-
15 ing coffee or taking too many early outs.

16 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Absenteeism or whatever.

17 INVESTIGATOR: Yeah. They do it also to get
18 even with the QC inspectors who have been giving them a
19 bad time. In some cases, they deliberately do a bad modifi-
20 cation on the (inaudible) so it will be noticed. The QC
21 name and number is stamped on the (inaudible) bed plate
22 for the bracket and makes it look like the inspector bought
23 off obviously bad work. And it could result in the in-
24 spector being terminated.

25 Can you relate to me what your experience has

1 been?

2 MR. YOSHIMOTO: I have never been aware of that.

3 INVESTIGATOR: Okay.

4 MR. YOSHIMOTO: He is saying they were being
5 stamped on there by other people.

6 INVESTIGATOR: Do they stamp the in bed plate?

7 MR. YOSHIMOTO: There is a plate with a number on
8 it.

9 INVESTIGATOR: Okay.

10 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Every plate has a number on it,
11 but I wasn't aware that the QC people did it. Maybe it's
12 stamped on it when it's made.

13 INVESTIGATOR: Okay. Well, how -- did the QC
14 put any kind of mark when they inspect?

15 MR. YOSHIMOTO: I imagine they put the number
16 on it, but I don't think it's stamped on there.

17 INVESTIGATOR: And it's just written on with
18 some kind of a grease pen or something?

19 MR. YOSHIMOTO: It may be, but it also may be
20 recorded on their prints, too. I don't know.

21 See, I'm not familiar with the --

22 INVESTIGATOR: I would like to (inaudible) number
23 off a plate. It's easy to go back to the record and
24 identify the (inaudible) inspector --

25 MR. YOSHIMOTO: I understand there is a number

1 on it, but I thought it came that way.

2 INVESTIGATOR: Yeah, with that plate number let's
3 go backwards.

4 INVESTIGATOR: Well, have you ever heard of any-
5 thing like this, since we are (inaudible) people have
6 deliberately --

7 MR. YOSHIMOTO: I had never thought it was
8 deliberate. I -- I thought that maybe the procedure -- see,
9 we have engineers --

10 INVESTIGATOR: Uh-huh.

11 MR. YOSHIMOTO: And we run into a problem where
12 something can't be done, so they told us to do it a certain
13 way. So, what you are saying could be true, because I have
14 fired some people out here.

15 But I wouldn't -- I know there is a lot of --
16 there were a few bad things down there. But with the
17 inspection (inaudible) it has been corrected.

18 INVESTIGATOR: Uh-huh.

19 MR. YOSHIMOTO: But I didn't know that they
20 were really that deliberate.

21 INVESTIGATOR: Have you ever heard any stories
22 like this where people have said they have deliberately
23 done things to get you in trouble?

24 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Yes. I've heard of it, but I've
25 never seen it. You know, I've seen -- they write your name

1 on the walls and all kinds of stuff like that, but going
2 out and deliberately trying to sabotage something, this is
3 the first time I've heard of it. It -- it could be true.

4 INVESTIGATOR: Now, is Mr. Wood still assigned
5 to Unit 2?

6 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Yes, he is. As a matter of fact,
7 he's still my boss.

8 INVESTIGATOR: Okay. Do you know an extension I
9 can contact him on?

10 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Yeah, I've got the number. You
11 know, the lower elevations were done a long time ago.

12 INVESTIGATOR: When you say a long time ago,
13 Sus --

14 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Well, I'm saying --

15 INVESTIGATOR: A year or more ago?

16 MR. YOSHIMOTO: I'm saying two years ago. 4215,
17 Ray Wood's number.

18 INVESTIGATOR: Okay. Thank you.

19 MR. YOSHIMOTO: I thought maybe it was just
20 changes in engineering, you know. We have procedures to
21 go through on these (inaudible) details and they change.
22 And we have to go back and change them.

23 I know there's a lot of things that were -- not
24 a lot, but a few things that are wrong in hangers and stuff
25 that we have had, but a lot of it was engineering or a bad

1 weld or something like that. And there was some that was
2 just actually bad.

3 You take a guy, a welder, that's kind of mad
4 about something, doesn't like the way things are being done,
5 or doesn't like the stabilization agreement, you have to
6 remind him everyday about it. He is going to just do any-
7 thing he can.

8 And some of these hangers and stuff that we build
9 have to be built according to specifications.

10 INVESTIGATOR: Right.

11 MR. YOSHIMOTO: And sometimes they just take the
12 easy way out and say: Well, I'm not going to be here a year
13 from now and they'll never catch it.

14 INVESTIGATOR: But is QC catching it, to your
15 knowledge?

16 MR. YOSHIMOTO: According to the amount of
17 repairs that we've had to go back and do, I would say yes.

18 INVESTIGATOR: Are you involved in hanger fabrica-
19 tion now? Or, were you at that time?

20 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Most of the fabrication comes
21 from the (inaudible) shop already made up.

22 INVESTIGATOR: Uh-huh.

23 MR. YOSHIMOTO: The welding detail, how it's
24 put up, we were doing that.

25 INVESTIGATOR: These are welded to in-bed plates?

1 Is that how they --

2 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Well, if they are (inaudible)
3 structural steel in your hangers (inaudible) most of it is
4 structural steel.

5 INVESTIGATOR: Do you have any information, even
6 rumors, Sus, of people that could be involved or could have
7 been involved in deliberately doing bad work?

8 MR. YOSHIMOTO: I can't think of anything right
9 now like that.

10 INVESTIGATOR: And the situation now is different
11 than it was two years ago as far as the attitude and feeling
12 of the employees?

13 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Yes.

14 INVESTIGATOR: Where are you working in Unit 2
15 now?

16 MR. YOSHIMOTO: I was on the start-up, so all
17 over the unit now.

18 INVESTIGATOR: Oh, you were in start-up?

19 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Yeah. I was the general foreman
20 until about a week ago and I decided to set the starter
21 back for another two weeks or so and then they are going to
22 bring you back again, according to them, you know. Things
23 can change.

24 INVESTIGATOR: John, do you have any questions?

25 INVESTIGATOR: Yeah. When these welders are

1 welding up these pieces and they do a sloppy job intentional-
2 ly because they are, you know, upset about something and
3 they figure they won't be on the job a year from now, aren't
4 they aware that QC is going to be looking at their work
5 within about two weeks?

6 And then they are going to be identified as
7 having done a sloppy job, and that as a result their termina-
8 tion may be much earlier than a year from now.

9 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Right. We have terminated some
10 welders.

11 INVESTIGATOR: But weren't they aware of the
12 process that goes on, so they knew that -- (inaudible)

13 MR. YOSHIMOTO: A lot of the guys don't --
14 didn't. When they first come out here, probably had never
15 welded a nuclear power house before.

16 INVESTIGATOR: So, they didn't know the pro-
17 cedure?

18 MR. YOSHIMOTO: So they don't know of the procedure
19 of the QC, okay. Another thing, too, when a welder -- this
20 has happened quite a bit -- not quite a bit but has happened
21 in a few cases, where a welder is supposed to put his
22 number on every weld he makes, okay. He just don't do it.

23 And how are you going to identify him?

24 INVESTIGATOR: Well, usually from the records,
25 from the work orders, you could pretty well run down --

1 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Well, I can usually go to the
2 foreman or myself and say: Who was welding in this area?
3 And then we could know who it is. But his number isn't on
4 it.

5 INVESTIGATOR: Yeah. But when the QC guy --
6 fellow comes along, he sees the number is missing, then he
7 is going to track it down and make sure the number is --

8 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Usually the foreman that is in
9 charge of that particular area knows who done it. And
10 he will have the guy go put his number back on it.

11 You know, if a guy makes a weld, a bad weld,
12 he has got to correct it. And after he makes so many bad
13 welds, you can't (inaudible)

14 INVESTIGATOR: Yeah.

15 MR. YOSHIMOTO: And they are going to terminate
16 him.

17 INVESTIGATOR: Yeah. The source of this
18 information identified and said -- he goes along with what
19 you recall. Since 1979 through Christmas 1981, there
20 have been instances where electricians or pipefitters
21 changed units (inaudible) supporting electrical trays and/or
22 piping after it had been bought off by QC.

23 So that does relate back -- you say approximately
24 two years ago.

25 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Uh-huh. Now, something like this,

1 when something is changed, I have to get permission from
2 my superintendent engineer to do it. But if they do it
3 without me knowing it, you know, I can't do nothing about
4 that.

5 INVESTIGATOR: Right. We understand that. What
6 I was wondering, by your own experience, if when you walk
7 back over work that has been done and look up, have you
8 ever found any amount of the unit stresses have been changed?

9 Have you ever noticed any changes in the fabrica-
10 tion after it had been bought off?

11 MR. YOSHIMOTO: No, I haven't.

12 INVESTIGATOR: Well, you know, these stories,
13 sometimes they get exaggerated when they get past one person
14 to another and get worse as they go along.

15 I really appreciate your coming in and talking to
16 us about it. In summary, then, what you are telling me is
17 you have really never noticed anything of this nature?

18 MR. YOSHIMOTO: No.

19 INVESTIGATORS: You said you had welders that
20 have done work and it wasn't acceptable?

21 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Right.

22 INVESTIGATOR: And you have gotten rid of those?

23 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Right.

24 INVESTIGATOR: And you've had no experience with
25 unit struts being changed in an effort to get you or Mr.

1 Wood or QC inspectors in trouble?

2 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Not to my knowledge. I know
3 that there are some bad feelings out there. I know that.

4 I never caught anybody doing it. I never have
5 seen anybody doing it. But, like I say, it could have been
6 done.

7 INVESTIGATOR: Okay. Is there anything that you
8 know of, Sus, out there that you feel the Nuclear Regulatory
9 Commission should look into?

10 Are you satisfied with the performance and work
11 that you are witnessing?

12 MR. YOSHIMOTO: I am, as long as we go through
13 the proper procedures, yeah. Because they have the en-
14 gineering and everything here, and they have the proper
15 prints. All we can go is by the prints.

16 INVESTIGATOR: Do your people have adequate
17 time to do their work so they can do a good job?

18 MR. YOSHIMOTO: Yes. I think they do.

19 INVESTIGATOR: I have no further questions,
20 John.

21 INVESTIGATOR: No, I don't either.

22 INVESTIGATOR: Sus, we thank you very much for
23 your appearance here to help the Commission trying to
24 resolve these matters. And we will bring this interview
25 to a close at this time. The time is now about 10:03 a.m.,
July 13th, 1982.