

REPORT OF INTERVIEW
WITH
SALVATORE S. ZULLA

On July 17, 1995, ZULLA was interviewed by the reporting investigator. The interview was conducted under oath at the Indian Point 3 (IP3) Nuclear Generating Station Training Building, Buchanan, NY. ZULLA provided the following information.

ZULLA was born on [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. His social security number is [REDACTED]. His drivers license number is [REDACTED]. He resides at [REDACTED]. His home telephone number is [REDACTED]. His office number is 914-681-6250. He graduated from Manhattan College in [REDACTED] with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He was hired by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) in June 1976. In September 1994 he became the Director of the Independent Safety Engineering Group. His supervisor is John KELLY, NYPA Vice President of Regulatory Affairs and Special Projects. Prior to that he was the Senior Technical Advisor to Ralph BEEDLE, NYPA Executive Vice President of Nuclear Operations. In those positions, he did not have any responsibility for fire protection (FP) at IP3 or the James A. Fitzpatrick (JAF) Nuclear Generating Station. 7C

ZULLA said that he was partly responsible for Ken VEHSTEDT's transfer from the NYPA White Plains Office (WPO) to IP3. ZULLA said that he proposed that VEHSTEDT be transferred to IP3 for one job, an inspection of the IP3 electrical seals on the cable tunnel. The inspection was scheduled to last one to two months. ZULLA made the proposal to William JOSIGER (Acting NYPA Executive Vice President of Nuclear Operations) probably in late 1992. VEHSTEDT transferred to IP3 shortly after that. ZULLA had no further discussions regarding VEHSTEDT remaining at IP3. ZULLA said that John GARRITY, former IP3 Resident Manager, did not request to have VEHSTEDT transferred to IP3 to be responsible for FP issues.

ZULLA recalls receiving two or three telephone calls from VEHSTEDT, wherein VEHSTEDT told him that he was aware that questions were being raised about the validity of the IP3 1984 10 CFR Appendix R Analysis (analysis). VEHSTEDT was concerned that the people in the WPO FP Engineering Group were not familiar with the analysis. VEHSTEDT told him that he did not understand why people, including John TARPINIAN and Andrew BARTLIK, did not understand the 1984 analysis. ZULLA got the feeling that VEHSTEDT was not satisfied with the support he was getting from the WPO FP Engineering group. ZULLA said that VEHSTEDT felt that the 1984 analysis was a good analysis, and that it had addressed all the things that needed to be addressed.

ZULLA said that NYPA didn't think that it needed to spend as much money to fix the FP problems at IP3 as had been spent at JAF. NYPA felt that IP3 did not have the extensive problems that JAF had. He said that there was no discussion or direction to NYPA employees to not identify FP safety issues at IP3.

ZULLA first became aware of problems in getting the IP3 FP issues resolved when some Design Deficiency Open Items (DDOIs) were brought to his attention. He specifically recalls that the IP3 Primary Access Building Ventilation issue

Information in this record was deleted
in accordance with the Freedom of Information
Act, exemptions 7C
FOIA 96-359

7C portion 1 2 66 6/10

was one of the DDOIs. ZULLA explained that the DDOI process was to identify issues so that IP3 could understand them. ZULLA said that VEHSTEDT felt that the people writing the DDOIs did not understand the 1984 analysis, and that the problems that were being raised were not really problems. ZULLA believes that all of the FP issues that were raised needed to be addressed, and that the questions that were raised in the DDOIs were valid. ZULLA said that VEHSTEDT did not make any threatening statements to him about TARPINIAN or BARTLIK.

ZULLA stated that he knows Walter WITTICH, Raytheon's NYPA representative. WITTICH never complained to him about TARPINIAN. He and WITTICH did not have any conversations about FP, TARPINIAN, or BARTLIK.

ZULLA said that, on occasion, VEHSTEDT mentioned that BARTLIK might be conservative in the scenarios that he postulated in his FP issues. VEHSTEDT told him that the nature of BARTLIK's scenarios were "far out." ZULLA sensed that VEHSTEDT wished that he did not have to deal with some of the scenarios that were postulated by BARTLIK.

ZULLA's personal observation is that BARTLIK and TARPINIAN were not harassed. He feels that VEHSTEDT felt strongly that the analysis was done correctly. ZULLA said that when people brought questions to VEHSTEDT about the analysis, VEHSTEDT would tell them, "why don't you take the time to read the analysis and that will answer the questions." ZULLA said that VEHSTEDT felt he was right in his position that the analysis was correct, and that BARTLIK and TARPINIAN did not know enough about the analysis.

ZULLA said that there were areas in the 1984 analysis that had to be changed, and those areas were changed. ZULLA said that there were modifications that had to be done, and NRC exemption requests that had to be modified. ZULLA believes that those requests were approved by the NRC. ZULLA does not know why VEHSTEDT fought those changes, other than that VEHSTEDT thought he was right in what had been done in the 1984 analysis. ZULLA opined that, when VEHSTEDT believes that he is right, he is very stubborn.

Reported by:


Jeffrey A. Teator, Investigator
Office of Investigations
Field Office, Region I