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10 This is why it will have a bearing on  
11 the trumped up charges of where I deliberately  
12 contaminated -- I don't know whether we want to go  
13 into that or not as yet.  
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Now, I have my area to be responsible  
 for in cleaning up spills and all. It's not my  
 job to be following behind the other men who also

1 are responsible for their cleaned up spills who  
2 were negligent, and management saw this and it had  
3 been brought to their attention, not only by me  
4 but by other technicians that would ignore it. I  
5 don't think these men were even documented. I  
6 have never seen a supervisor come behind one and  
7 say, hey, if I were you I'd take a little time and  
8 clean up here, you've left a mess here. For this  
9 went on day after day after day. I had to use  
10 those steel carts; before I could use those steel  
11 carts, I had to clean up their mess. And I felt  
12 this was very unfair for me to be responsible.  
13 When I talked of this to Mr. Lees and in the  
14 presence of Fawcette and even Mr. Long I told them  
15 that I got tired of the housewife syndrome or  
16 being a mother to grown men who were being paid a  
17 much higher wage than what I was and who were  
18 doing the spilling but not cleaning up behind.  
19 Now, we could live that in that environment and  
20 atmosphere if we wanted to. I could shut my mouth  
21 and not become unpopular and just go on day after  
22 day.

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3 After we talked  
4 about that I presented the letter of where on that  
5 very weekend prior to the Monday that he got there  
6 they had pulled me out on trumped-up charges of  
7 deliberate contamination. Stripped me of my badge,  
8 escorted me here, escorted me and wanted to escort  
9 me back to FMO building to pick up my permanent  
10 effects. Which I refused to do.  
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1 Q. Yes. On March 15th of '84, that's  
2 when Sheely calls you and tells you not to come in  
3 but to come in the following morning and to meet  
4 you?

5 A. March 16th, that's right.

6 Q. For you to meet him at 8:00 o'clock in  
7 the lobby of the machine building. You go in that  
8 morning and meet with Sheely and Thurston Davis,  
9 who is the shop rep?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And Sheely tells you that you have  
12 deliberately contaminated a table in your work  
13 area?

14 A. Yes. That's it.

15 Q. And that you refused to clean it up.  
16 Then --

17 A. And I denied it.

18 Q. Then the meeting moves to Davis's  
19 office and Sheely tells you that you were being  
20 charged with contaminating an area and he asked  
21 you if it was true.

22 A. I tried to reason with Mr. Sheely,  
23 explaining to him that he had two incidents  
24 pertaining -- one to a frisker. And I told him in  
25 relationship what had happened, that Sunday night

1 when I had asked Bill for the frisker to check  
2 what I thought was contamination on an electrical  
3 switch box panel, which is at least as long as  
4 that file. I had been noticing over a period of  
5 time that the nice shine on the bright paint had  
6 become dull, and rust spots were appearing on it.  
7 Just sitting in front of this panel were these  
8 metal holders that had shelves that the men were  
9 removing hot trays of crucibles from the microwave  
10 and setting here to cool, which I had brought to  
11 management's attention more than once, that it was  
12 a safety hazard, because the air-condition  
13 currents were forcing those fumes out where we  
14 were inhaling it in our atmosphere where we were  
15 working. Plus I suspected, and only at that time  
16 did I suspect, maybe that's why that door is  
17 beginning to look like it's contaminated. Is it  
18 possible?

19 So I asked him for the frisker and I  
20 reached in behind as far as I could in different  
21 areas with the frisker. And everywhere I held the  
22 frisker close it alarmed showing that it was  
23 contaminated.

24 Now, this holder had been there over a  
25 year. I had complained about this. Another

1 supervisor who at the time was a technician with  
2 me had also approached management at the same time,  
3 and we tried to get him to realize, Coke McLamb to  
4 realize, that this was a safety hazard, that the  
5 cooling shelves should be under the vented hood,  
6 which was right next to it, to permit this to cool  
7 off.

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18 Q. (BY MR. URYC) You had asked  
19 permission to take the frisker to that area?

20 A. Right. To check it out. And then I  
21 came back and told Bill what I suspected and I  
22 requested him to go over there and to verify what  
23 I had found. But instead he called Rad Safety.  
24 He wanted them to come down and to smear it and  
25 tell him how much radiation or how much damage had

1 been done. Because you could see the rust forming  
2 on the bottom part of the panel where there was  
3 contamination. There had to be.

4 So Rad Safety never came in that night  
5 on the shift. And I inquired about it. And Bill  
6 would inquire of me when I'd come in off my break  
7 and he had been out. He said, "Vera, has Rad  
8 Safety been in?" I said not to my knowledge.  
9 This is unusual. And I thought to myself  
10 something is wrong in this picture. I did not  
11 know what, but I felt I had not done anything  
12 wrong. I decontaminated the table, those shelves,  
13 as far as I could reach. I could not move these  
14 shelves. They were made of stainless steel. I  
15 could not lift them off, but I could push them a  
16 bit away from the panel so I could reach in a bit.  
17 But I did not wipe off the panel because Rad  
18 Safety -- Bill told me he wanted Rad Safety to  
19 come in and do a swatch on it and find out what  
20 content of uranium so possibly they would have had  
21 to have changed that switch box or just could they  
22 clean it up and paint it. That's what they do,  
23 you know, decontaminate and repaint.

24 So I never gave no more thought to it.  
25 You want me to tell you what happened on that



1 incident and then come back to the letter on the  
2 charges again, since we're right in that area?

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18 Then the next thing they noticed, Rad  
19 Safety came in and checked the door. They found  
20 nothing.

21 Q. (BY MR. PEERY) Now, what door are you  
22 referring to?

23 A. This panel, switch box panel door.  
24 They found nothing on it.

25 The next thing found behind that, they

1 saw the door being painted so it blends right into  
2 the wall. It's light on the top and a deeper  
3 brown on the bottom. So when I come in I say  
4 that -- well, what happened here, all the fellows  
5 are all lined up and still you could hear a pin  
6 drop on the floor. I notice the reactions of the  
7 people. And of course, I'm coming in lighthearted,  
8 because I usually kid with the fellows anyway. We  
9 have a good rapport among ourselves. It was just  
10 with management the problem lay. And I said you  
11 mean to tell me they finally took care of that  
12 safety hazard, and proceeded on around, got my lab  
13 coat and glasses, came back to where they were  
14 talking. I tried to find out what happened, and  
15 everybody was evasive. I approached John Monroe,  
16 who had done it, and he did not want to talk to me.  
17 So something was cooking up. That happened on  
18 Monday night.

19 Thursday night, 15th, I'm out of the  
20 lab. I said to Mr. Sheely, I said that's  
21 significant, something was wrong. But I will tell  
22 you I'll deny it to my dying day that I purposely  
23 contaminated and refused to clean up. Now --

24 Q. That was on a lab bench top?  
25 A. The holders sat on the lab bench, but

1 the other was on the wall.

2 Q. What were they accusing you of  
3 contaminating?

4 A. It states that it had to do with  
5 tables. All right. Prior to this time I had been  
6 washing off the legs many times of contamination  
7 on the left-hand side. I am predominantly  
8 right-handed. Have you noticed that everything I  
9 grab, I grab right. I am completely deaf in this  
10 ear and its made me super sensitive to the the  
11 right side. When I cannot hear I protect myself.  
12 I make sure I reach. It affects my equilibrium.  
13 This possibly had to do with the head-on collision  
14 I had many years ago when I was about 16, because  
15 I've suffered the ailments since then. But it was  
16 always on the left side. And I couldn't figure it  
17 out. Even sometimes there was spill back  
18 underneath the plexi tabletop that the balance sat  
19 on on the left side. And I would try to lift this  
20 up. I couldn't. It was very heavy. I tried to  
21 get under it so I could flush it with nitric acid  
22 and water and get it out, and use decontamination soap,  
23 wash down the sides, wash this down. Wash the  
24 floor, because many a times I've had to wash the  
25 floor. But I couldn't figure out all these spots

1 like this spilling out on the left side. I knew  
2 it wasn't me. Because I individually used a clean  
3 pipe tip and I would take it off with my hands and  
4 reach over and drop it in the waste basket. And  
5 the waste basket is right here. And it puzzled  
6 me. It had been going on and going on and going on.  
7 It almost looked like it was being done on purpose.

8           So I decided I was not going to do it  
9 anymore. I am going to have to handle it like I  
10 did back in the gad area. I used paper towels  
11 back there and marked when it was hot and walk off  
12 and leave. It did me no good to go to a  
13 supervisor and tell them. The supervisors knew  
14 the contamination was there. I had brought it to  
15 their attention before. Bill Lacewell's attention  
16 definitely. They had seen. The supervisors  
17 couldn't help but walk in the area and see it.  
18 Because it literally was pouring down. So I took  
19 red caution tape and I put it on those table legs.  
20 And I told Bill Lacewell I refused to be a mother  
21 any longer. I refused to be and have to act out  
22 the housewife syndrome anymore. And I meant it.  
23 I meant it. Because I knew now when I would wash  
24 it up and I would leave off from my shift and I  
25 come back and find it I was not doing it. I knew

1 that somebody was doing it. And they were my  
2 co-workers. Now, whether they were doing it  
3 deliberately I have no way of knowing. I can only  
4 quote to you what technicians, level nine  
5 technicians have told me. They knew who was doing  
6 the contaminating. They knew that it was Steve  
7 Sloan or Ron Brown. Both of them were using  
8 sloppy technique. Carl Rochelle had noticed how  
9 Steve Sloan had been doing this. And in so,  
10 somehow hitting his pipette, that would force a  
11 contaminated tip off and it would miss the basket  
12 and wherever it hit that droplet that was still in  
13 there would spread. I don't know whether -- see,  
14 I had never seen that, because we worked one to a  
15 shift, and I could not answer for that. All I  
16 know is what I saw and what I cleaned up, which  
17 was not done by me. But also the level nine had  
18 seen and known deliberate contamination of the  
19 table.

20 As an example: March 16th I was not  
21 in the lab. March 15th, that night, I had not  
22 been in the lab. So I could not have done it.  
23 But on March 16th, on that day shift, Rad Safety  
24 came in and did find -- now wait a minute. I  
25 can't recall whether it was the afternoon shift

1 that they found the contamination on the day shift.  
2 They found it hot. I cannot remember. It was on  
3 one shift anyway that I was not -- it happened  
4 twice the month of March with the same man on,  
5 with the same supervisor being on the same shift  
6 that Rad Safety found them hot.

7           Anyway, that incident where they found  
8 it hot, I had not been in the night before, so  
9 they couldn't blame it on Vera. And it was found  
10 done by these men. But anyway, that was one  
11 incident when it was hot.

12           The other incident was when I was not  
13 on the shift and the men knew that they had  
14 cleaned up and there was supposed to have been no  
15 contamination on those legs. Ron is working again.  
16 And Bob Hudson and Carpenter and Buddy Lewis are  
17 on the same shift. And the level nine man, Bob  
18 Hudson, turns to these men when he saw Ron and  
19 Coke leave out of the lab on a break and he said  
20 I'll bet you anything that if you go down there  
21 you will find contamination again on those legs.  
22 The three of them walked over there, and sure  
23 enough, on the left-hand side it was contaminated  
24 again. Bob Hudson this time called Rad Safety and  
25 Rad Safety came in and checked it out and it was

1 so hot, and the floor was so hot, that he told  
2 them they should have been wearing rubber shoes or  
3 rubbers over their shoes.

4 About that time Coke and Ron comes in  
5 and they're very angry and Coke is very vindictive  
6 over what has happened. So after they had pulled  
7 the tables apart and cleaned up all the  
8 contamination, he made the technicians go to their  
9 own areas and clean up there, also.

10 Now remember, Vera was not in there to  
11 do it. And these level nine men know who is doing  
12 it. They know that I never, I never take from the  
13 tray. I put it out here in the open after it is  
14 cooled. I don't put it near my face. And I reach  
15 for the crucible, bringing it around, and I put it  
16 into the balance and close the door and do the  
17 automatic weighing, take it out and set it here on  
18 the ledge. I'm right-handed. I pipette  
19 right-handed. My tubes are sitting there right-handed.  
20 And I put it in and instantly put the crucible  
21 back out of the weight, and I have instantly  
22 capped my test tube. So that these fumes under a  
23 hood that's not vented is coming back in my face.  
24 Everybody knows that is the way I have done it  
25 since I have worked there.



1 that well, Vera, 'something has happened. We must  
2 get your side of the story, so on and so forth.

3 Q. What was the contamination issue?

4 A. The contamination issue was --

5 Q. The charge against you?

6 A. That I had deliberately contaminated  
7 tables, my area, and had refused to clean it up.

8 Q. Now, when they say you deliberately  
9 contaminated it they are accusing you of running  
10 in, sprinkling powder all over everything, or what?

11 A. That's what Lees said. This is what  
12 was astonishing to me at the end of the hearing.  
13 Lees said, "And I was told that she poured powder  
14 on the table and rubbed her fingers in it." I was  
15 flipped. I have not for -- now, let me back up  
16 and tell you exactly what was happening when the  
17 auditor came in and did check my area. This  
18 morning, <sup>Nov 5, 1994</sup> I'm working, weighing out isotopics.  
19 Remember, we're receiving vials heavily  
20 contaminated many times with powder that even when  
21 you open a vial -- and I don't care who opens a  
22 vial in that lab -- air currents and static  
23 electricity starts that powder moving. So we have  
24 to be presumptuous and assume that when I get  
25 ready and I'm opening it up under the hood here



1 over my bench. Because I don't want it on my lab  
2 coat or in my lap, many times I have towels there  
3 if I work with green pellets or somehow I know  
4 that it's really going to be dirty. But I try to  
5 watch my technique that I do not dump any. But  
6 sometimes when you turn that vial over if the  
7 powder had been picked up incorrectly, <sup>by some one else.</sup> powder had  
8 got down around the label and it would drop onto  
9 the counter top.

10 I had weighed two trays prior to the  
11 time the auditor came into my area. I had brushed  
12 <sup>on my work table top toward the glass farthest away from me</sup> away the powder, <sup>with his wipe</sup> and had wiped it over before I  
13 asked him to come to me. But I'm in the process  
14 actually of doing my work when he walks in that  
15 lab. He sees I'm working, doing this, one vial  
16 after another, tray after tray is what you're  
17 doing. So you have to be presumptuous and say  
18 there's contamination there. I treat it as such.

19 He <sup>a</sup>come over. I called him over in my  
20 area, because I had seen he had gone through the  
21 fluoride area and there was no reaction coming,  
22 supposedly, or an alarm, that it was hot. Prior  
23 in the morning I had been over under the hood, the  
24 fluoride hood, and it has a ledge that sticks out  
25 and the doors come down like this, but there's

1 some ledge sticking out here. The powder had been  
2 spilled so much in that area and over this that I  
3 had even glanced down at the floor and I suspected  
4 possibly powder could be there on that floor. So  
5 I was very careful not to walk <sup>if to</sup> into the front <sup>of</sup> ~~to~~  
6 the hood, afraid I would be stepping in a  
7 contaminated area. I watched him. I knew this,  
8 see. But that was out of my area. I watched him  
9 as he was there and he was going over it. And  
10 apparently it didn't seem like the frisker was  
11 working, though I noticed he was turning the  
12 <sup>switch or dial</sup> button from one angle to another. And I'm sure  
13 they must have a certain parameter that may be  
14 acceptable.

15 And then he checks the counter where  
16 they're working, and I had already seen powder on  
17 that counter. But I had never seen anybody else  
18 go back there into that area and clean it up. The  
19 reason why, the level nine man that was supposed  
20 to have been on that shift did not come in that  
21 morning. So it was a prior shift that had walked  
22 off and left that hood and ledge and that on the  
23 floor and that on the counter like that. There  
24 was no other way to explain it, because Bill  
25 Mathewson was not on the shift that day. So I

1 ~~hurried~~ over to him and I said hey, <sup>and</sup> the reason  
2 why is because it was so rare they came into that  
3 area. I wanted him to check out my area, and if  
4 he found some contamination let's clean it up.  
5 But also I want to know how careful I was being, <sup>about cleaning the six inches or so close to me</sup>

6 P. 247, line 7, insert "My technique, which was common practice of all  
7 Level 8 and 9 technicians, was that when I was testing trays of visibly  
8 contaminated vials, after doing two or three trays, depending on how heavily  
9 droppings to the rear of the table, and wipe the first six inches or so with  
10 a Kim wipe, which I would drop into the waste basket. None of us had time,  
when we were required to weigh five or more trays, to stop and do a real  
clean up between each sample, or even each tray. We were under tremendous  
pressure to produce and release results. More frequent clean up would  
destroy our production record.", after "technique."

11 back like this, and I'm holding the vial here, and <sup>in my outstretched hand</sup>  
12 I had a crucible already in the balance. And when  
13 he came I closed the door, because I was in the  
14 process of weighing and it wasn't completed.

15 Now, I pull back like that. He  
16 checked the <sup>left</sup> side. All right. He checked this  
17 side. Fine. And I'm amazed. I'm thrilled in  
18 myself. These are my feelings. I'm telling you  
19 the truth as I felt that morning. Because I  
20 thought my technique is good, meaning I was being  
21 careful. Because if I am dumping powder here <sup>and</sup>  
22 ~~sloppily~~ <sup>Sloppy we</sup>, my technique, I'm the one that's going  
23 to suffer from it. Because the air currents are  
24 moving and you can see this, many times a pan will  
25 become so contaminated you have to remove your

1 vial and -- not the vial but the crucible and re-weigh  
2 with a clean one to get accurate weight. So I was  
3 pleased. He said it's fine. I went back to work.  
4 And I'm working. And the only thing that's wrong  
5 about it in the whole set up as I told Bill  
6 Lacewell -- maybe I shouldn't have done. But yet  
7 this is something else that I think needs to be  
8 brought out. *the Rad Safety man had not seen or checked the yellow*  
*I had put red caution tape here on*  
*contamination which was on the legs of my table on Monday when I called him over*  
*the table.* I'm not to do his job. It is his job  
9 to watch for contamination as Rad Safety  
10 representative and to be on the alert for it. ~~He~~  
11 ~~did not see the red caution tape.~~ And he walked  
12 out and I made up my mind I was not going to bring  
13 it to his attention. Maybe I was wrong. Maybe I  
14 was wrong. But I had got fed up, clear up to here  
15 of cleaning up behind babies who have no business  
16 to work in the lab if this is what they have been  
17 doing on prior shifts. *I had put a piece of red caution tape on the legs of my table on Monday, March 9, 1954.*  
18 When I go out on my shift  
19 I have cleaned up behind myself, my area, and I  
20 clean up as soon as I get done with my weighing.  
21 Because I presume in my mind the possibility of  
22 someone coming over and wanting to use that  
23 balance. And they have. And I don't want them to  
24 contaminate their items or themselves. This is  
25 logic. This is being concerned for other people.

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Q. (BY MR. URYC) What was the issue, now, that you were reprimanded for?

A. That I had deliberately contaminated tables. And this is the only table that I know of.

Q. But you weren't given any specifics as to what exactly?

A. No. Not actually in the letter does it specify what table or what area that supposedly I had contaminated. When I asked who my accusers were, they refused to tell me who had made the accusations. And I don't know who made such an accusation and why they would make accusations like that. But I do know I showed Bill Lacewell Sunday night where I put the caution tape. Then I told him the motive, the purpose why I've done it. Because I had brought it to the attention of

1 management enough. And as I said to Bill, later,  
2 maybe I should have cleaned it up. Later I got to  
3 talking to Bill concerning this letter, and I  
4 called him at his home. I said, "Bill, do you  
5 know why they have pulled me out of the lab?" He  
6 said no. He said no. I said, "You haven't heard  
7 of the letter of the trumped-up charge against me  
8 that I have deliberately contaminated." He said  
9 no. I said, "Would you like for me to read the  
10 letter to you?" He said yes.

11 I read the whole letter to him. And  
12 he was just as shocked about it, because he knew  
13 that I had requested the frisker from him. He  
14 gave me permission to use it. He also knew I had  
15 put caution tape there; that I had refused to  
16 clean up behind these men; that it was an issue  
17 and the supervisor should have contacted those  
18 people and documented for deliberately leaving  
19 such there.

20 Q. (BY MR. PEERY) So it is a practice to  
21 use the red tape to mark off contaminated areas,  
22 or --

23 A. Whenever it should be. But red tape  
24 is used very little in that lab for cautioning.  
25 Another thing I had noticed was safety hazards.

1 If there were spills, spills were not marked off  
2 to caution other people. Red tape or caution tape  
3 was not put on containers of acid and marked with  
4 what kind of acid was in those containers. This  
5 was -- I noticed under this management a defense  
6 let down to good lab practices in preventing  
7 hazards from happening.



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Q. (BY MR. WILLIAMSON) You mentioned that even though you didn't consider you had deliberately contaminated your table, you were fed up with cleaning it up?

A. Cleaning up the area; that contamination on the legs that was being done by a prior shift. See, when I would leave out after I would clean up, clean up these legs and clean up the floor and all, and I knew there was no contamination there when I left out of the shift.



1 I would come back in and here it would be there  
2 again. I knew that it appeared to me like  
3 somebody deliberately was doing it, or being sloppy,  
4 or didn't care, and that management was condoning  
5 this. For why didn't the supervisors who at a  
6 prior round table meeting said they were clamping  
7 done on this and that they were going to be  
8 looking around in the areas to see that these  
9 areas were cleaned up -- and I really feel that  
10 something was going on, either it was to harass  
11 and irritate me and to get me angry, because that  
12 was the one thing the supervisor at the time was  
13 trying to pinpoint on me, that she gets upset and  
14 angry and hollers out.

That day there was no such interfacing with the supervisor with me saying Vera, your area is hot, you got to shut down, you got to clean up. There was no calling of other technicians to come into that area and help me do it. Neither was I interfaced by a supervisor. I worked my full eight hours. I've got paperwork printout that actually showed that I worked during the time supposedly there was contamination. Now, somebody is lying. And I've got to exonerate those charges.

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5 A. Right. The deliberate contamination  
6 of a table. What table are they talking of? For  
7 I had cleaned up that night, I had time to decon.  
8 And Bill knew I was cleaning up, doing some  
9 housecleaning over and above what I would  
10 ordinarily do. But it also was that same night  
11 that I had put the caution tape on those legs.  
12 And I told him, Bill, I don't intend to clean this  
13 up anymore.

14 For you see, prior to that time, sir,  
15 when I had been in on the shift before, I cleaned  
16 it up. Twenty-four hours later I come back in and  
17 I find it again. I told them.

18 Q. (BY MR. PEERY) You're talking about  
19 what you see visibly?

20 A. Visibly. And it was visibly. In the  
21 telephone conversation --

22 Q. What was it you were seeing exactly  
23 that tells you it was contaminated?

24 A. It was uranyl liquid.

25 Q. Yellow?

1           A.       Yellow liquid that appeared to be  
2 poured down the legs and spattered on the inside  
3 of the marble table. Those tables weigh about 200  
4 pounds, or each slab about 200 pounds, and it  
5 takes the men working together to clean up that  
6 area. And it was on the inside of the area on  
7 those legs.

8           Q.       How do you think it got there?  
9 From what you're describing, doesn't sound as  
10 though -- that it could --

11          A.       Run off of the top?

12          Q.       Run off of the table and get back on  
13 the leg. Sounds like the leg is back a ways.

14          A.       Yeah. That's right. I haven't  
15 thought about that. Thank you, sir. I don't know  
16 how it got there, but it looked to me like it was  
17 deliberately poured there or squirted there. I  
18 don't know which. I have no way of knowing. Only  
19 it was there and I brought it to his attention.  
20 And I told Bill in that telephone conversation I'm  
21 sorry now that I didn't go ahead and clean it up  
22 and then just tell you I was never going to do it  
23 again. But if I had not shown him he would not  
24 have known what it looked like, what I was talking  
25 about. And that tape meant this: It was caution

1 to company workers this is hot, it's contaminated.

2 Q. Did he acknowledge that it looked like  
3 to him it was contaminated, too?

4 A. Yes. Number three was failure to  
5 clean up the contamination knowing that it existed.

6 Q. (BY MR. URYC) And that's when you put  
7 the tape on the leg?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Is that what they're referring to  
10 maybe?

11 A. I would assume that's what they are.

12 Q. And you don't know?

13 A. No. I don't know anything about this.  
14 I don't even know who my accusers are. But I can  
15 tell you this one thing: There's only one person  
16 I talked to in that lab concerning the  
17 contamination on the leg, and that was with Bill  
18 Lacewell.

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**GENERAL ELECTRIC**

NUCLEAR ENERGY BUSINESS OPERATIONS

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY • 175 CURTIS AVENUE • SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95125

April 25, 1985

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
ACT REQUEST****FOIA-85-303**  
*rec'd 4/26/85*

Mr. Joseph M. Felton  
Director, Rules & Records Division  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Felton:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 5 USC 552 and  
10 CFR Part 9, I hereby request the following:

Statements by Vera M. English regarding particular events  
which occurred in the Chemical-Metallurgical Laboratory at  
General Electric Company's Wilmington, N. C. Fuel Manufacturing  
Plant between March 9 and March 11, 1984, inclusive, including,  
but not limited to, all statements concerning spills or  
alleged spills and any actions by her, if any, that were  
taken regarding any spills or alleged spills. These  
statements appear in a 495 page transcript of an NRC interview  
with Vera M. English dated July 11, 1984.

General Electric requires this information to enable it to  
prepare itself properly in a Department of Labor proceeding.

General Electric believes that responding to this request will  
not in any way interfere with any of the NRC's regulatory responsi-  
bilities or ongoing activities.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact  
John K. Reatrick, Counsel, Nuclear Energy Business Operations,  
(408) 925-3103.

Very truly yours,

*Edward A. Firestone*  
Edward A. Firestone  
Counsel - Litigation

*8507-40484 1p.**100*



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

JUN 14 1985

Edward A. Firestone, Esquire  
General Electric Company  
175 Curtner Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95125

IN RESPONSE REFER  
TO FOIA-85-303

Dear Mr. Firestone:

This is in response to your letter dated April 25, 1985, in which you requested, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), copies of statements by Vera English regarding events at the General Electric facility in North Carolina in March 1984 which are contained in a transcript of an NRC interview with Ms. English which was held on July 11 and 12, 1984.

The subject transcript is an investigatory record compiled for law enforcement purposes and is being withheld from public disclosure pursuant to Exemption 7(A) of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. 552(b)(7)(A)) and 10 CFR 9.5(a)(7)(i) of the Commission's regulations, because disclosure of the information would interfere with an ongoing investigation.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 9.15 of the Commission's regulations, it has been determined that the information withheld is exempt from production or disclosure and that its production or disclosure is contrary to the public interest. The person responsible for this denial is Mr. Ben B. Hayes, Director, Office of Investigations.

This denial may be appealed to the Commission within 30 days from the receipt of this letter. Any such appeal must be in writing, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and should clearly state on the envelope and in the letter that it is an "Appeal from an Initial FOIA Decision."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. M. Felton", is written over the typed name.

J. M. Felton, Director  
Division of Rules and Records  
Office of Administration

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