

1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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4 OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

5 INTERVIEW

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7 IN THE MATTER OF: :

8 INTERVIEW OF : Docket No.
9 ROBERT PARKER WEISS : (not assigned)

10 :
11 -----X

12 Thursday, December 1, 1994

13
14 Conference Room 202
15 Crystal River Plant
16 6745 N. Tallahassee Road
17 Crystal River, Florida
18

19 The above-entitled interview was conducted at
20 11:07 a.m.

21 BEFORE:

22 JIM VORSE Senior Investigator
23 William McNULTY Investigator
24 CURT RAPP Reactor Engineer
25

CASE NO. 2 - 94 - 0367

EXHIBIT 9
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1 APPEARANCES:

2 On Behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

3 JAMES VORSE, Senior Investigator

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7 WILLIAM J. MCNULTY

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12 CURT RAPP

13 Reactor Engineer - NRC, Region II

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18 On Behalf of the Interviewee, Robert Parker Weiss

19 GREG HALNON

20 Operations Manager

21 Crystal River Nuclear Plant

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 MR. VORSE: This is an interview of Mr. Rob
3 Weiss, a Reactor Operator. We're at the Crystal River
4 Nuclear Plant, Administration Building, Room 202, the time
5 is 11:07 a.m., December 1, 1994.

6 Present are myself, Jim Vorse, Investigator,
7 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Investigations.
8 Mr. Bill McNulty, also an Office of Investigations
9 Investigator. Mr. Curt Rapp, who is a Reactor Engineer,
10 NRC, Region II. Mr. Greg Halnon, who is the Operations
11 Manager here at Crystal River Nuclear Plant, and he has
12 been requested to attend this interview with Mr. Weiss at
13 Mr. Weiss' request.

14 Mr. Weiss, would you spell your full name,
15 please, for us.

16 MR. WEISS: Just the last name?

17 MR. VORSE: First and last.

18 MR. WEISS: Okay. Robert, R-O-B-E-R-T, Parker,
19 P-A-R-K-E-R, Weiss, W-E-I-S-S.

20 MR. VORSE: And what -- give us what you do for
21 your job.

22 MR. WEISS: I'm an Assistant Nuclear Shift
23 Supervisor, Crystal River, Unit III.

24 MR. VORSE: Would you describe your duties to us
25 and tell us how long you've been doing this.

1 MR. WEISS: Well, my duties are to supervise the
2 shift, ensure the safe operation of the plant while I'm on
3 duty.

4 I've been doing this since -- gee, I'm not sure,
5 to be honest. It's when I got my SRO. I think it was
6 around --

7 MR. HALNON: The same year I got mine, 1989.

8 MR. WEISS: '89? Yeah.

9 I've worked as an operator at CR III since 1980.

10 MR. VORSE: By CR III you mean Crystal River
11 III?

12 MR. WEISS: That's correct.

13 MR. VORSE: Do you recall an incident on
14 September 5th, 1994, regarding the curve at the make-up
15 tank?

16 MR. WEISS: Yes.

17 MR. VORSE: Can you describe your participation
18 in this event?

19 MR. WEISS: I was the Nuclear -- or the
20 Assistant Nuclear Shift Supervisor on duty that night and
21 I was involved in the evolution that we performed. And I
22 also collected the data and evaluated it and wrote the
23 problem report on it.

24 MR. VORSE: When you collected the data, what
25 did you collect?

1 MR. WEISS: We have a system called REDAS that
2 let's us pull computer point history from the computers
3 into an XL spreadsheet and I use that to graph it.

4 MR. VORSE: Use that to graph what?

5 MR. WEISS: I graph pressure versus level.

6 MR. VORSE: Before you did this there was some
7 discussion about the test. Can you recall what that
8 discussion was and who was there?

9 MR. WEISS: Well, let's see. The members of my
10 crew were there. That was Dave Fields was the shift
11 supervisor, Mark Van Sicklin was the chief and he was in
12 the Control Room for this with us, Jack Steward^{TA} was on the
13 board, Christine Smith on the board, and we had Jim
14 Atkinson and Stan Kaconas in the Auxiliary building. And
15 we discussed what we planned to do to put the make-up tank
16 level at the high end of the normal operating ^{level band} ~~vent~~ and put
17 make-up tank pressure to the curve, and then bleed the
18 make-up tank down to 55, which is the lower limits of the
19 operating curve.

20 We discussed that if the pressure did go above
21 the curve, that we should have somebody standing by in the
22 Aux building ready to vent the make-up tank if any signs
23 of increased RCS leakage occurred.

24 We talked a little bit about whether what we were
25 doing, you know, what guidance that we had to do this, and

1 we felt that an OP-402 provided that guidance to perform
2 this evolution.

3 MR. VORSE: Did you look at 402? Did you review
4 402?

5 MR. WEISS: Yeah, we looked at it. We didn't
6 fill out a copy of it. You know, bleeding the make-up
7 tank is a pretty routinely performed evolution.

8 MR. VORSE: Did anyone express any concern about
9 going outside design basis?

10 MR. WEISS: No, I don't think that -- I didn't
11 realize that the curve is a design basis limit, okay. We
12 knew it was an operating curve. We had been looking at
13 some of the bases for the curve, but it wasn't clear that
14 that curve represented the design basis limit on this
15 issue.

16 MR. VORSE: Had you known that, would you have
17 done the test?

18 MR. WEISS: No, I would not have let pressure
19 remain above the curve. You know, as soon as I violated
20 it that's a reportable issue at that point.

21 MR. VORSE: Did -- Did anyone -- this may be a
22 repeat of what I just said, but did anyone express
23 reservations about conducting this test because it was
24 outside design basis?

25 MR. WEISS: No.

1 MR. VORSE: Who was the person that was
2 primarily vocal about conducting this test? Who really
3 got it stirred up?

4 MR. WEISS: Well, I'd say that the person who
5 had been most involved in the concerns with the make-up
6 tank pressure response to level drop was my chief at the
7 time, Mark Van Sicklin. He had written a concern
8 following the data that was collected during SP-630, the
9 fact that the response trace looked like it was going to
10 cross the curve. And that was addressed in a problem
11 report, PR -- I think it was 94149. And he came to me
12 when it looked like the issue was going to be closed out
13 and asked if we could try this, put it on the curve at the high level,
14 drop level and see what the response was, just to verify ^{RW}
15 once and for all before the issue was closed for all time.

16 And I discussed it with Dave; we thought that we
17 had adequate guidance in our normal operating procedures
18 as long as we stayed within our normal operating limits on
19 level to do it.

20 MR. VORSE: Curt, do you have any questions you
21 want to ask?

22 MR. RAPP: Not at this time.

23 MR. VORSE: Bill?

24 MR. McNULTY: Your normal operating limits on
25 level, that would be the limits of how far you could draw

1 the water level down? Is that --

2 MR. WEISS: That's correct. We have a normal
3 operating band on level in the make-up tank, it's given in
4 OP-402. It's 86 inches is the high and 55 is the low.

5 MR. McNULTY: Fifty-five is the low.

6 MR. WEISS: And, in fact, the reason that we
7 restricted ourselves to that region was that we felt that
8 to go outside the normal operating limits of the -- of the
9 level band would require a test procedure.

10 MR. McNULTY: How about are there operating
11 limits for the pressure?

12 MR. WEISS: There is an operating limit curve,
13 Curve 8, I believe it is, of OP-103B.

14 MR. McNULTY: All right. And that's the one
15 that you felt was not -- you didn't recognize that as a
16 design basis limit at that time, is that correct?

17 MR. WEISS: That is correct.

18 MR. McNULTY: Do you have other curves that you
19 operate with in your procedures?

20 MR. WEISS: Yes.

21 MR. McNULTY: Are they design basis limit curves
22 or are they --

23 MR. WEISS: I don't know of --

24 MR. McNULTY: -- conservative admin curves?

25 MR. WEISS: -- any of those curves that are

1 design basis limits.

2 MR. McNULTY: And can you think of any curve
3 that you've got in your procedures that is a design basis
4 limit?

5 MR. WEISS: Which -- you know, let me just
6 clarify. When you say "is a design basis limit", you're
7 not saying that it's based upon a design basis issue, but
8 that the limit is actually at the design basis; correct?

9 MR. McNULTY: That's correct.

10 MR. WEISS: I don't know of any curves like
11 that.

12 MR. McNULTY: So in your experience most of the
13 curves that are in our procedures from Florida Power are
14 conservative, they're not at the design basis limit?

15 MR. WEISS: That is correct. There's a general
16 philosophy to provide a buffer between the operating limit
17 and the design basis limit.

18 MR. McNULTY: So, in utilizing the curve in
19 procedure 402 you felt that that was the same as the other
20 ones you've worked with, that was an at a design limit?

21 MR. WEISS: I didn't recognize ^{that} ~~it~~ it was at the
22 design basis limit; that is correct.

23 MR. McNULTY: One other question was, and
24 different facilities refer to different positions and
25 different time names, was there a shift technical advisor

1 on duty that night?

2 MR. WEISS: I don't recall who was functioning
3 as the shift technical advisor. The man on call -- or the
4 shift manager --

5 MR. McNULTY: Okay -- the correct way --

6 MR. WEISS: Please do because I don't recall.

7 MR. HALNON: Larry Moffit was the shift manager.
8 We have a dual role of shift manager/STA.

9 MR. McNULTY: Okay.

10 MR. HALNON: And he was on duty that night.

11 MR. McNULTY: Was he involved in any of the
12 discussions as far as this evolution went?

13 MR. WEISS: Bearing in mind this happened a
14 while back, to the best of my recollection, we talked to
15 him after we had done this, but not prior to.

16 MR. McNULTY: Is he normally involved in a
17 briefing before the shift takes over?

18 MR. WEISS: Normally at the turnover meetings,
19 when our shift first comes on, yes, he would -- would
20 normally be around.

21 MR. McNULTY: And did anyone mention to him that
22 you planned to conduct this evolution with the make-up
23 tank?

24 MR. WEISS: I don't recall.

25 MR. McNULTY: That's all I have.

1 MR. VORSE: Would you care to add anything to
2 what you've talked about this morning?

3 MR. WEISS: No, not at this time.

4 MR. VORSE: Okay. Have you been forced to
5 attend this session by anyone, have you been coerced to
6 attend this session?

7 MR. WEISS: No, I was told that this was a
8 consensual meeting, that I did have the right to decline.

9 MR. VORSE: Okay. Well, we appreciate your
10 being here and we'll go ahead and conclude this interview.
11 The time is 11:18 a.m., December 1st.

12 (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded at
13 11:18 o'clock a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

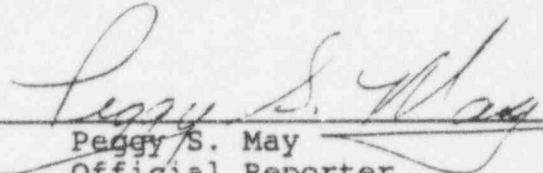
This is to certify that the attached proceedings before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the matter of:

Name of Proceeding: Interview of Robert Parker Weiss

Docket Number(s): (not assigned)

Place of Proceeding: Crystal River, Florida

were held as herein appears, and that this is the original transcript thereof for the file of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission taken by me and, thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under the direction of the court reporting company, and that the transcript is a true and accurate record of the foregoing proceedings.



Peggy S. May
Official Reporter
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