

REPORT OF INTERVIEW
WITH
GARY S. THOMPSON

THOMPSON was telephonically contacted by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Office of Investigations (OI) Investigator Gary H. Claxton on January 7, 1991. THOMPSON was contacted at his place of employment, Carolina Power and Light Company (CP&L), 333 Fayetteville Street Mall, Box 1551, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602, telephone (919) 546-7105. THOMPSON is employed by CP&L as a senior procurement specialist. Upon being advised of the caller's identity and purpose of the call, THOMPSON provided the following information.


THOMPSON said he was involved in the efforts to purchase 20 electrical relays in May 1990, to be used at the Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant (SHNP) which is owned by CP&L. THOMPSON said SHNP had issued a requisition for the relays which has his authority to make the purchase.

THOMPSON said he contacted the manufacturer of the relays, Potter and Brumfield (P&B), and was told the relays were not in stock. He said he was referred to an authorized P&B distributor in Mobile, Alabama, as a possible source. THOMPSON said he called the distributor, Spectronics, Incorporated, and talked with a salesman who identified himself as Pete TOLBERT. He said he was told by TOLBERT that Spectronics had the relays in stock and would be able to provide the relays to CP&L within 3 days. THOMPSON said he was not surprised that Spectronics could provide the relays so quickly. He said it was his experience in procurement that occasionally one distributor may be overstocked on a needed product when that same product was unavailable in other parts of the country.

THOMPSON said he did not specifically ask TOLBERT for new relays because it never entered his mind that an authorized distributor would sell used products. He added that TOLBERT never said anything about the relays being refurbished nor did he ask if a used product was acceptable. He said he told TOLBERT that the relays were to be used in a nuclear plant. Nonetheless, he said his company would not buy refurbished electrical parts even if the application was non-nuclear.

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE: Shortly after this interview was concluded, THOMPSON provided OI by facsimile transmission, a copy of CP&L requisition number 90136, dated May 24, 1990. The requisition was for 20 P&B relays consisting of 12 Model MDR 138-8, 6 Model MDR 173-1, and 2 Model MDR 142-1 relays.

This Report of Interview was prepared on January 15, 1991.



Gary H. Claxton, Investigator
Office of Investigations
Field Office, Region II

Reviewed by: 

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EXHIBIT 30