

10-95-513

Official Transcript of Proceedings
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: INTERVIEW OF HAYDEN M. PROSSER

Docket Number: ---

Location: CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Date: OCTOBER 19, 1995

Work Order No.: NRC- 370

Pages 27

NEAL R. GROSS AND CO., INC.
Court Reporters and Transcribers
1323 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 234-4433

ADDENDUM

F51 B

-2-

A-11

DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING CORRECTIONS

If you have any corrections that you wish to make on your transcript, please do so on the following page in the following fashion:

Indicate the page to which the correction applies, the line number, and then the change to be made and the reason for making the change. Date and sign all pages that relate to your transcript.

If you have no corrections or clarifications, please state this on the following page and date and sign the correction page.

- PAGE 10. LINE 20. Change "bayshast" to "bench".
REASON: "bayshast" has no meaning and I probably said "bay" or "bench".
- PAGE 17. LINE 13. Change "Products" to "Probes".
REASON: This is the usual terminology.
- PAGE 18. LINE 17. Delete "gee". ~~Turn~~
REASON: I WAS STARTING TO SAY JIE.
- PAGE 14. LINE 16. Change "Sitver" to "Silva".
REASON: Name mis-spelt.
- PAGE 14. LINE 16. Delete the word "so".
REASON: ALL TWO LEAVING THE LAB WAS TOTALLY UNRELATED TO THE CONFLICT WHICH HAPPENED A CONSIDERABLE TIME BEFORE.
- PAGE 20. LINE 1. Change "they" to "he".
REASON: I WAS REFERRING TO YUYPING AS NOT BEING ACCOMODATING.
- PAGE 20. LINE 11. Change "Silver" to "Silva".

PAGE 20: LINE 23 REMOVE "UNDER" AND INSERT "AND"
IN FRONT OF "NOW" TO READ "AND NOW THE S-35"
REASON: IT MAKES BETTER SENSE.

10/23/45

W. M. Proger

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- - - - -

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

- - - - -

INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS TEAM

- - - - -

INTERVIEW OF HAYDEN M. PROSSER

- - - - -

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

- - - - -

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1995

- - - - -

9:01 O'CLOCK A.M.

- - - - -

INTERVIEWERS:

BETSY ULLRICH

ALAN L. MADISON

THOMAS O'CONNELL

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

2 (9:01 a.m.)

3 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. It is October 19th,
4 Thursday, 9:00, and this is an interview with Hayden
5 Prosser.

6 My name is Betsy Ullrich. I'm a Health
7 Physicist with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region
8 One office, and we are here to do an interview about a
9 contamination event. We want to look at if we can
10 determine how it happened, what happened, and get a good
11 idea of the chronology of events and what possible causes
12 of the ingestion were.

13 So we'd like to interview you and some other
14 persons about that event, and we are transcribing it, in
15 large part simply to save us from having to worry about
16 taking notes during the interview and being able to talk to
17 you. At the end of the session, we will give you all of
18 the information about how to review your transcript if you
19 would like to do that -- that sort of information.

20 The copy of the transcript will be available
21 for you to review but not for anyone who was not involved
22 in this conversation.

23 The Incident Investigation Team is here to
24 identify probable causes, provide feedback to the industry
25 and to the regulatory agency as to what, if any, preventive

1 actions could be done to avoid having this sort of thing
2 happen in the future.

3 We want to obtain information about the event,
4 transcribe the interviews -- this is also to help us review
5 some of this information later -- and the transcripts may
6 eventually be put in the public document room, but that
7 will only be after our final report is issued.

8 Anything else?

9 MR. MADISON: At that time, you can get a copy
10 of it. Okay?

11 MS. ULLRICH: Yeah, that's correct, and also
12 the report is publicly available at that point as well.
13 That will be a public document.

14 Let's get everybody introduced here. Alan,
15 I --

16 MR. MADISON: I'm Alan Madison with the Nuclear
17 Regulatory Commission out of headquarters.

18 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. And if you could give us
19 your name and your title and sort of tell us how you fit
20 into the organization here at MIT.

21 MR. PROSSER: Yeah. My name is Hayden Prosser.
22 I am a post-doc in the laboratory of Susumu Tonegawa. I've
23 been here I think for just over four years now, and I've
24 just been working on various projects in the lab. That's
25 about all I could say here.

1 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. And you're a post-doc, you
2 said?

3 MR. PROSSER: Yeah, a post-doc.

4 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. What kind of work are you
5 doing these days?

6 MR. PROSSER: These days, I am doing molecular
7 biology and work with mice.

8 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. And do you do work with
9 radioactive material in the lab?

10 MR. PROSSER: Yes.

11 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. If you could think back,
12 I'm sure you've been doing some thinking about it this week
13 already --

14 MR. PROSSER: Yeah.

15 MS. ULLRICH: -- to August, maybe starting at
16 the beginning of August as to what was going on in the
17 laboratory and how you came to know about the contamination
18 event. What information do you know about that?

19 MR. PROSSER: The first that I heard about it
20 was I think the Monday after Eugene -- the weekend that
21 Eugene realized he had been contaminated. I don't remember
22 the date that was, but so that was a week before they
23 estimate the contamination actually happened, just over a
24 week before.

25 I just came into the lab and there was a bit of

1 a commotion --

2 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

3 MR. PROSSER: -- and people were talking about
4 it, and then I was told by my baymate, I think -- Min Wu.

5 MR. MADISON: Pause for a moment. Excuse me.

6 MS. ULLRICH: We need to pause.

7 (Whereupon, the proceedings were off the record
8 briefly.)

9 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. On the record again. We'd
10 like to introduce an observer from the Commonwealth of
11 Massachusetts.

12 MR. O'CONNELL: Thomas O'Connell, Mass.
13 Department of Public Health, Radiation Control Program.

14 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. Let's get back to your
15 discussion of how you found out about the ingestion event.

16 MR. PROSSER: Yeah. I think -- I think Min Wu
17 told me, first of all. She had just heard it off someone
18 else, and just discussed it with a number of people in the
19 lab, like Dennis King and Ming Xu, and various people that
20 were standing around in my room in the laboratory.

21 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

22 MR. MADISON: Which room are you in?

23 MR. PROSSER: I'm in E17342C. No, C is my --
24 actually, designation is E17342. That's the room.

25 MR. MADISON: Is that -- in relation to where

1 Dr. Li works, where is that?

2 MR. PROSSER: It's a bit difficult to explain.
3 There's a room next -- the room further towards Susumu's
4 office, I can't remember the number, is -- runs parallel to
5 Eugene's room. So it's -- it's like that. That's Eugene's
6 room, so we're at right angles. This is my room; that's
7 Eugene's room.

8 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

9 MR. PROSSER: That's -- this room is in
10 between. We're at right angles to this.

11 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. So you heard about it from
12 the other people in the laboratory?

13 MR. PROSSER: Yeah.

14 MS. ULLRICH: What happened in the lab after
15 that?

16 MR. PROSSER: Well, I guess there was some talk
17 about how it could have happened and the various
18 possibilities. Then the -- let's see, we had the meeting
19 with the MIT radiological protection people.

20 MS. ULLRICH: Do you remember when that was?

21 MR. PROSSER: I think it was very soon
22 afterwards. I can't remember the precise dates.

23 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

24 MR. PROSSER: It was very soon after that
25 Monday. I think later in the week.

1 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

2 MR. PROSSER: And, yeah, they just said that
3 they were trying to work out the dose that Eugene
4 experienced with Eugene. And then I think -- and they
5 said, basically, that, you know, they weren't sure whether
6 or not they'd have to report it to the NRC. It depended on
7 the dose, and then later -- later on there was further
8 feedback that there was -- they weren't quite sure about
9 what the dose was, and Eugene saying it was higher and they
10 were saying that it was lower.

11 And then I believe it went some time later --
12 some weeks later it went to some independent person at
13 Harvard who -- who gave a dose somewhere in between the two
14 estimates.

15 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

16 MR. PROSSER: And that's about all.

17 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. And you said there were
18 some discussions about how this could have occurred. What
19 kind of thoughts did people come up with in the laboratory?

20 MR. PROSSER: Well, either -- I guess there are
21 three possibilities, which is the three possibilities that
22 the MIT people also discussed with us. Either it was some
23 freak accident, or that someone did it to him and
24 contaminated food or drink, or that Eugene contaminated
25 himself for some reason. And that's -- that's the

1 possibilities I guess.

2 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. And you've been working
3 with isotopes for a number of years?

4 MR. PROSSER: Yes.

5 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. What kind of -- have you
6 had any kind of contamination incidence in your laboratory
7 that has ever led to anything like this?

8 MR. PROSSER: In any of my laboratories?

9 MS. ULLRICH: Yeah.

10 MR. PROSSER: No.

11 MS. ULLRICH: You haven't seen this?

12 MR. PROSSER: No, I have never seen any
13 internal contamination.

14 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. What are kind of the
15 standard practices of the people in this particular
16 laboratory following terms of safety with dealing with the
17 radioactive materials?

18 MR. PROSSER: Working behind shields and
19 minimizing exposure to themselves and other people,
20 disposing of the radioactive material in the appropriate
21 containers, etcetera.

22 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

23 MR. PROSSER: That's pretty much I think -- my
24 experience in this lab is that there have been no -- I
25 don't think there have been any major contamination

1 incidents, external or -- no major spills. I think most
2 people are very careful. There is just the occasional hot
3 spot here, labeling on a bench or on the floor, which I
4 think as soon as it's found it's dealt with --

5 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

6 MR. PROSSER: -- quite diligently. So I think
7 overall most of the people in the lab are very good with
8 radioactive material.

9 MS. ULLRICH: Who does the surveys of the labs?
10 Is it --

11 MR. PROSSER: Well, I guess MIT comes along and
12 does a survey. Within the lab, it's pretty much
13 individuals checking their areas and checking common areas
14 as they use them.

15 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

16 MR. PROSSER: I know I've cleaned up hot spots
17 and things for -- you know, that weren't my doing, and that
18 occasionally happens.

19 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. How about the old
20 pipetting practices, food practices, film badges? What
21 kinds of -- how are those things dealt with in the
22 laboratory?

23 MR. PROSSER: Well, I've never seen anyone
24 mouth pipetting or anything like that.

25 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

1 MR. PROSSER: I don't think that happens. Food
2 sometimes creeps into the lab; however, it's not supposed
3 to. I think people are quite careful and sensible about
4 it, generally. I don't know -- obviously, I can only tell
5 from the people in my room. I don't think there's any
6 major problem.

7 MS. ULLRICH: What about --

8 MR. MADISON: I'd kind of like to nail down a
9 little more clearly where your room is. Could you kind of
10 draw a sketch for us?

11 MR. PROSSER: Yes.

12 MR. MADISON: And we can attach it as part of
13 this, as to where your --

14 MR. PROSSER: Okay.

15 MR. MADISON: -- your lab is. We'll identify
16 this sketch as Exhibit 1 for the transcriber.

17 (Whereupon, the above-referred to
18 document was marked as Prosser
19 Exhibit Number 1 for identification.)

20 MR. PROSSER: This is my bayshaft. This is
21 room 342. This is -- here's my name.

22 MS. ULLRICH: Last name is fine.

23 MR. PROSSER: Eugene's.

24 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

25 MR. PROSSER: And this position is -- I can't

1 remember the name of the room of -- this room on this --

2 MR. MADISON: That's all right. You've
3 indicated where your lab is with an X?

4 MR. PROSSER: This is Tonegawa's office, a
5 little further up.

6 MS. ULLRICH: Is it possible to show where the
7 radioactive material storage refrigerator is and the food
8 refrigerator on that diagram? Or at least sort of the
9 general area that they might be in?

10 MR. PROSSER: Well, they've been -- recently,
11 the food refrigerator has been here.

12 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

13 MR. PROSSER: And the radioactivity is here.

14 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

15 MR. MADISON: Has anybody ever mistakenly put
16 their food in the radioactive materials refrigerator?

17 MR. PROSSER: No. It's very clearly marked,
18 and there would be no reason to -- I mean, it's a freezer
19 anyway. You wouldn't want to freeze --

20 MR. MADISON: Okay. Thanks.

21 MR. O'CONNELL: Was that the position of the
22 food refrigerator and the radioactive material refrigerator
23 when --

24 MR. PROSSER: At the time.

25 MR. O'CONNELL: -- at the time?

1 MR. PROSSER: Yes. I mean, it has been moved
2 around in the past, but that's the most recent -- current.

3 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. In terms of visitors into
4 your work areas, those rooms, do you have a lot of
5 visitors? Was there anybody unusual around that time that
6 anybody had noted?

7 MR. PROSSER: I mean, this -- it's often common
8 for, well, I guess delivery people and sometimes people
9 come around the lab. We don't always know who they are. I
10 can't remember anyone in particular at this time. You
11 know, friends of people in the lab, people delivering the
12 good, and you don't always know who they are. And also, I
13 mean, new people in the lab, you often don't realize
14 they're in the lab for --

15 (Laughter.)

16 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. Sure.

17 MR. PROSSER: But, no, I can't remember anyone
18 in particular --

19 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

20 MR. PROSSER: -- at the time.

21 MS. ULLRICH: What's the working habits in the
22 laboratory? What time do people generally show up? Is
23 there a lot of weekend work? What is your work schedule?

24 MR. PROSSER: My work schedule, as I think most
25 people's is -- tends to be very haphazard. It just depends

1 on what -- what needs to be done during the day. I think a
2 lot of people work extremely hard. It's very common for
3 people to be here until the not so small hours in the
4 morning, and most people probably tend to get in later in
5 the morning. That's generally my schedule as well. I
6 mean, I was working until 1:00 last night, and that's quite
7 common, so --

8 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. Do you take any special
9 precautions? Is the building locked after certain hours or
10 weekends or --

11 MR. PROSSER: The security in the building has
12 never been particularly good. There is actually -- you
13 know, there have been people coming into the -- I mean,
14 just people coming in from the streets and taking alcohol
15 and stuff like that from the laboratories. That has
16 occurred. And I think everyone knows that the building
17 itself is not secure at all.

18 I think they -- in the past few months, they
19 have tightened up security by taking locks off certain
20 doors that can be gotten into and -- and locking certain
21 doors. But then again, it tends to be a bit haphazard.
22 Sometimes they're open; sometimes they're locked. So --

23 MR. MADISON: There's no security key card
24 system to get in on a weekend?

25 MR. PROSSER: There is no security key card

1 system. That would be very helpful. There is a door at
2 the -- on the Ames Street entrance, where you punch in a
3 code, and you can get in that way. But the back -- I
4 normally go through the back door into the parking lot,
5 into -- I think it's E-19 or E-18, and that's normally
6 unlocked.

7 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

8 MR. PROSSER: In fact, there was -- I remember
9 some time ago there was a sheet that was sent around
10 discussing the building. I don't know where it went to --
11 some federal organization. And one of the things I
12 criticized was the security.

13 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. My understanding is that
14 -- I guess on the Monday rad protection showed up in the
15 laboratory to do some additional surveys. Were you there
16 for any of that? Do you recall seeing what they did?

17 MR. PROSSER: I can't remember what -- I can't
18 -- I think I may have seen people in the lab, but I don't
19 -- I guess Dennis went around with them. I was probably
20 too busy with my work to see.

21 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

22 MR. PROSSER: I mean, that -- the next day -- I
23 think it was the next day or so, the radioactivity was
24 gone. The radioactive materials were --

25 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. They came and --

1 MR. PROSSER: -- removed, yeah.

2 MS. ULLRICH: All right.

3 MR. PROSSER: I can't remember much on that --

4 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

5 MR. PROSSER: -- day.

6 MS. ULLRICH: Now, there was an inventory or an
7 attempt to determine the inventory materials in the
8 laboratory. Were you involved with that?

9 MR. PROSSER: Yeah, I estimated I think fairly
10 accurately how much I've used from my notebook, yeah.

11 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. Could you describe a
12 little bit about how you determine what you used, how you
13 keep records?

14 MR. PROSSER: Well, you -- I know -- more
15 recently I haven't been writing down precisely the
16 quantity, precisely every action I do, because you end up
17 doing too many. I guess it just becomes routine, but you
18 probably -- I have restarted doing that now, and -- but I
19 went back -- I know how many reactions I did, because, you
20 know, you do so many reactions for each purpose. So I can
21 look at the purpose, and I remembered during those weeks
22 fairly accurately how many reactions I did, and I know how
23 many microliters of P-32 I used per reaction, so --

24 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

25 MR. PROSSER: -- I've got a fairly good

1 estimate. And then I wrote that down --

2 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

3 MR. PROSSER: -- in my notebook to help with
4 the inventory.

5 MR. MADISON: It wasn't written down in your
6 notebook before?

7 MR. PROSSER: I don't think it was for those
8 two weeks. I think I stopped doing that at some time, but
9 I have restarted now.

10 MS. ULLRICH: You do have records, though, of
11 what work you were doing?

12 MR. PROSSER: Oh, yes.

13 MS. ULLRICH: So you --

14 MR. PROSSER: I know precisely what every --
15 every blot I --

16 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

17 MR. PROSSER: Yeah.

18 MS. ULLRICH: All right. When you are taking
19 your aliquots, you said you know about what -- how many
20 microliters you typically take. What is that?

21 MR. PROSSER: You can -- it depends on the
22 purpose. During that time, I was just doing Southern
23 blots, so I don't think I would have taken more than -- it
24 could be anywhere between 10 and 30 microliters per time.

25 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

1 MR. PROSSER: Up to maybe two or three
2 reactions at a time.

3 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. So once a week? Twice a
4 week? Daily?

5 MR. PROSSER: Once or twice a week.

6 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

7 MR. PROSSER: For different purposes, you can
8 -- you have screening -- a couple of libraries or
9 something. You might -- you have to do it in a larger
10 volume, and you have to do the dose -- and then you might
11 -- might be taking perhaps even 50 or 70 microliters to --

12 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

13 MR. PROSSER: -- label several products.

14 MS. ULLRICH: Do you know anything about
15 Dr. Li's work habits, in terms of what quantities he might
16 have been using or what equipment he typically would use in
17 assessing whether he was a clean worker? Did he tend to
18 contaminate the laboratory?

19 MR. PROSSER: I think it was -- the only stuff
20 I know is -- is what -- from what other people have said.
21 I think -- I know he is a very -- I mean, he's very
22 careful, a hardworking person. So I should imagine he
23 would be careful, but then I've heard from Jie Shen, who
24 has done -- shares the bay with him that he didn't -- he
25 wasn't using a shield, or something -- at some time, and

1 she complained to him that if -- he was doing P-32 work,
2 and he wasn't --

3 MR. MADISON: Do you know how you spell that
4 name?

5 MR. PROSSER: It's J-I-E. I think Shen is S-H-
6 E-N.

7 She had complained to him that he wasn't using
8 a shield, just for the P-32 work, and then he showed her a
9 sheet of -- some data sheet and pointed at a certain
10 isotope and said that you don't need a shield. And it
11 turned out it was I think P-33 or she -- I guess I never
12 use -- I guess you don't need a shield for. And so she put
13 him right on that, and then he was far more careful on that
14 note.

15 And she says that after she complained to him
16 about labeling on his bench, he then always labeled, and a
17 different bench that -- if Jie works -- gee, that's not
18 quite accurate. Jie works this position here, and Eugene
19 started labeling on this bench, which we use for
20 sequencing.

21 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

22 MR. PROSSER: So it was against a wall and away
23 and could be shielded from anyone else in the --

24 MR. MADISON: And you're indicating on -- on
25 our sketch here.

1 MR. PROSSER: Yes.

2 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. It's a fairly crowded
3 laboratory. You have a lot of workers in there. What is
4 the level of personal conflict that arises?

5 MR. PROSSER: I would say -- well, I don't --
6 well, I've worked in three labs in my life, and this is a
7 far more confrontational place than anything I've ever
8 experienced. I think it's a bit -- it's on the high side,
9 in terms of personal conflict.

10 MS. ULLRICH: Can you think of anybody who had
11 any particular conflicts with Dr. Li?

12 MR. PROSSER: I know that various people
13 weren't happy with some things which happened? And soon
14 after I came to the lab there was a -- quite a major
15 conflict between Eugene Li and someone called Alcino
16 Silver, who now runs his own lab at Cold Spring Harbor. So
17 he left about two or three years ago.

18 That was over the production of mutant mice,
19 where Alcino was helping Eugene make the mice initially,
20 but then tried to get access to the mice before they were
21 made. And Eugene was -- the thing about Eugene's character
22 is he is very inflexible, in terms of when it comes to
23 negotiations and things. And that led to quite a major
24 conflict.

25 But that -- I think most people think that

1 Eugene was in the right in that case, anyway. But they
2 just tend not to -- not to be very accommodating.

3 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

4 MR. PROSSER: More recently, I don't -- I went
5 -- until recently -- I think I'm probably better connected
6 with the gossip in the lab now, over the past -- for most
7 of the past three years, I haven't been really aware of
8 conflicts which Eugene is involved in. More recently, I
9 think that was -- there has been some sort of conflict
10 between Eugene and some of the people in the lab over
11 access to mice which Alcino Silver made, which Eugene was
12 taking care of in the lab -- the cam -- cam kinase II alpha
13 subunit. People wanted access to mice for their own
14 experiments.

15 And because they were difficult to breed,
16 Eugene was not supplying them, and I think people thought
17 that he was using the difficulty of breeding as an excuse
18 for not supplying them, and that he was continuing to
19 supply them to his own collaborators in preference, you
20 know, with the availability and preference to the people in
21 the lab. But I don't know how -- you know, I know people
22 were upset by that. I don't think it was like a major --

23 MS. ULLRICH: Sure. Okay.

24 MR. PROSSER: -- confrontation.

25 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. You said earlier, going

1 back to when radioactive material was removed from the
2 laboratory, how long was it before you were able to resume
3 work in the laboratory?

4 MR. PROSSER: I think it was about a week,
5 maybe slightly longer.

6 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. Did anything change in how
7 you did work when you resumed?

8 MR. PROSSER: Yes. The access to the
9 radioactivity is much tighter, and there -- initially, just
10 Dennis, the lab manager, had a key to get access to the
11 radioactivity within a locked box within the radioactivity
12 freezer. There was a problem with that, in that lots of
13 people work on the weekends and off hours, as I said, and
14 in order to -- for the smooth running of the lab, a couple
15 more keys were made and given to Sue Huang, who is a
16 technician in the lab, and Toshi Sasooki -- Sasooka, who is
17 a senior post-doc in the lab.

18 So that improved that system a bit, but then
19 Toshi is there a lot of the time. He works very hard. But
20 in order to give a little bit more access, I was then given
21 a key as well. So -- so the three of us and Dennis are
22 responsible for handing out the required -- Dennis also
23 aliquots the P-32 now under the S-35. So we're responsible
24 for handing out aliquots of the P-32 and then documenting
25 the allocation in a logbook.

1 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

2 MR. PROSSER: Which is by Dennis' bench.

3 MS. ULLRICH: Do you know if this was changed
4 only in your laboratory, or if other laboratories have had
5 to change?

6 MR. PROSSER: I don't have an idea about --

7 MS. ULLRICH: Okay.

8 MR. PROSSER: -- other laboratories, no.

9 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. All right.

10 Alan, any --

11 MR. MADISON: A couple of things I guess. Do
12 you have any personal interaction with Dr. Li?

13 MR. PROSSER: Very little. I have never had a
14 personal conflict with him.

15 MR. MADISON: I didn't mean conflict, but any
16 kind of interaction with him?

17 MR. PROSSER: No, that is -- I'm just saying,
18 but very little interaction at all. I mean, I've just --
19 it's -- our work doesn't really overlap. The only
20 interaction is like swapping standard reagents. I recently
21 gave him a phage library that he was going to screen before
22 the incident happened, and things like that -- just --

23 MR. MADISON: Kind of a working relationship.

24 MR. PROSSER: Just general -- general
25 cooperation, yeah. I don't think there is any real

1 interaction with him, no.

2 MR. MADISON: Were you in the lab on the
3 weekend of August 19th?

4 MR. PROSSER: Yeah. I mean, I'm there most --
5 most weekends. I can't -- I'm there I guess, unless
6 something unusual happens, every weekend. So I can't --

7 MR. MADISON: Yeah.

8 MR. PROSSER: -- really remember. So it's --
9 I'd have to look in my notes.

10 MR. MADISON: Do you know if you were there on
11 the Sunday following the -- the Sunday previous to the
12 Monday when you came in and heard all of the activity?

13 MR. PROSSER: Yeah, I would have been I think.
14 I'll have to check in my notebook, but I'm fairly certain I
15 would have been there.

16 MR. MADISON: You didn't notice anything
17 unusual?

18 MR. PROSSER: No, I didn't.

19 MS. ULLRICH: Or the previous week?

20 MR. MADISON: Or the previous week?

21 MS. ULLRICH: Yeah.

22 MR. PROSSER: No. No.

23 MR. MADISON: Do you know of anything else
24 occurring in Dr. Li's life on the outside of the lab that
25 might have related to this event?

1 MR. PROSSER: No, I have no idea of Dr. Li's
2 life outside the lab. I just see his -- his wife comes in
3 occasionally -- used to come in occasionally to the lab,
4 but -- and they used to go off together, and that's about
5 it. I don't really have much idea. The only time I saw
6 him outside the lab ever -- I think it was like lab
7 functions where we sometimes go out to dinner, stuff like
8 that. That's about all.

9 MR. MADISON: Does Dr. Li -- do you know if
10 Dr. Li has any personal relationships, any close
11 relationships with anybody in the lab that you would call a
12 friend or -- in the lab?

13 MR. PROSSER: I mean, he's friendly with Ming
14 Xu, I guess, who works in my room, as far as I'm aware. I
15 don't know exactly the extent of his friendship with -- he
16 seems to talk a lot with Ming Xu. I don't know how
17 friendly he is with other Chinese or non-Chinese. I don't
18 think he's terribly friendly with most of the non-Chinese
19 people, put it that way. I don't really know how close he
20 is to the Chinese people.

21 MS. ULLRICH: Tom, do you have anything?

22 MR. O'CONNELL: No.

23 MS. ULLRICH: Well, I'm at a stalemate. I
24 can't think of anything else off hand that I want to ask
25 about the laboratory or the work that you do, or the event.

1 As I said, you will be given an opportunity to look at the
2 transcripts. Do you have anything else that you can think
3 of that you want to tell us, or that might relate to this
4 event in any way?

5 MR. PROSSER: No, I can't -- I can't really
6 think of anything.

7 MS. ULLRICH: Let me ask one more question. I
8 did forget this. Were people on the campus or in the
9 laboratory aware of the similar incident at NIH?

10 MR. PROSSER: Yes.

11 MS. ULLRICH: Before this happened?

12 MR. PROSSER: Yeah, they were aware before.

13 MS. ULLRICH: They were.

14 MR. PROSSER: I'm quite sure of that, yes.

15 MS. ULLRICH: Okay. Okay. I think we can go
16 through this off the record or --

17 MR. MADISON: Do you know of anybody else that
18 we should talk to or that would like to talk to us?

19 MR. PROSSER: No one in particular. I think
20 everyone is -- everyone I can see is quite willing to
21 cooperate. I mean, it would probably be a good idea to
22 talk to people like Ming Xu, who tends to communicate more
23 with --

24 MR. MADISON: Do you know how to spell that
25 name?

1 MR. PROSSER: M-I-N-G, X-U.

2 MR. MADISON: X-U?

3 MR. PROSSER: Yeah.

4 MR. MADISON: Okay.

5 MR. PROSSER: Who might communicate more with
6 Eugene.

7 MR. MADISON: I'm going to give you a number
8 that you can contact us. Are you going to hand it to him
9 on there?

10 MS. ULLRICH: Yes.

11 MR. MADISON: So that you can contact -- or if
12 anybody wants to contact us, that number is good and they
13 can make that call at any time.

14 MR. PROSSER: Yes. Okay.

15 MS. ULLRICH: I think we can go off the record
16 now.

17 (Whereupon, at 9:32 a.m., the interview was
18 concluded.)

19

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 WITH HAYDEN M. PROSSER

Docket Number: --

Place of Proceeding: Cambridge, Massachusetts

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.

C. Pyott
Official Reporter
Neal R. Gross and Co., Inc.

