

An abstract painting with vibrant colors and geometric shapes. The composition features bold, expressive brushstrokes in shades of blue, orange, red, green, and black. The background is a mix of dark and light tones, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall style is modern and dynamic, with a focus on color and form.

Twelve Memorable Quotes That Assist in Describing Status of Reactor and Relationships

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We Say the "Darndest" Things

AO President



Grimm

NRC Staff



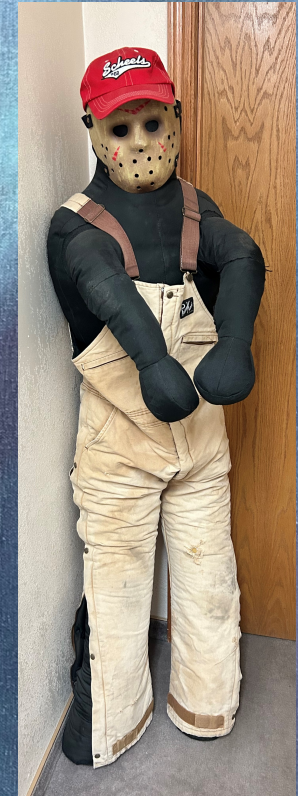
Bubba

AO Mgmt



Jack

AO Ops



Jason

“What ?!...That is Not What Is Documented”.

Training manual, an electronic schematic, and operator's exam describes the presence of a Continuity Safety Interlock and how it functions

The reality: There is no such circuitry or function



“How does this satisfy ALARA?”

The quote resulted during the discussion of the existing elements of our NRC accepted ALARA program. Concerns were identified which included our visitor training, storage of radioactive waste, radiation fields in public areas, and Radiation Work Permits (RWP)

- ***Public spaces had elevated radiation fields***
- ***All entering received a RWP***

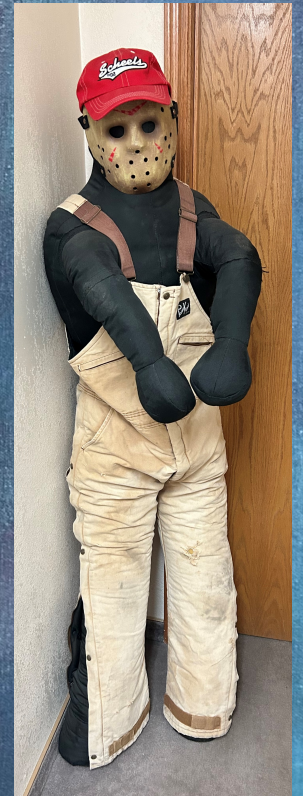


“The NRC Approved It”/“The NRC Accepted It”

In 2017 in reviewing the operators Requalification program found that it did not meet my understanding of the regulatory obligations but the plan had been approved and accepted annually since 2000 by the NRC.

Also 2017, the NRC staff questioned its compliance to regulation. The quote is attributed to operating staff

- The number of control manipulations over the operators six-year license.
- A lecture and training program to be completed only if an operator fails the written exam.



“We have your back”

This quote was stated at a TRTR meeting. AO had just recently sent an SRO for operating training at Reed College to be refamiliarize our SRO to reactor controls/responses even though their controls/responses were different. (We argued that it did not make sense.)

Later at the same meeting a NRC staff indicated to the audience that requirement for that form of training was being halted until an effectiveness evaluation was conducted.

What made this especially memorable was that this quote was made in the men's bathroom



“I remember that; we had to get product out”

Having concerns about our 50.59 review of maintenance documents associated with our control instruments, I hired an electronic engineer to compare the current instruments to its schematics.

As the electronic engineer was explaining his findings, AO mgmt. supplied the quote.

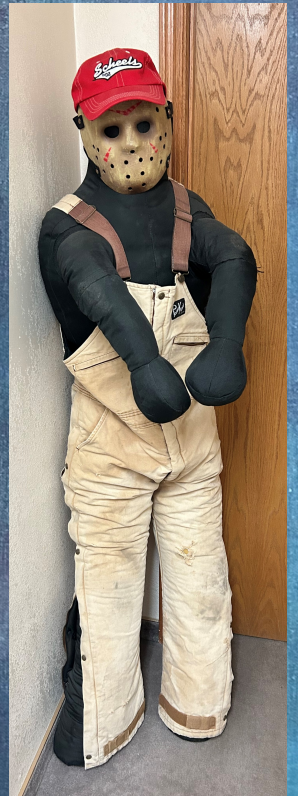
An alien part (not rated for the required function) was installed in the instrument and immediately placed into service without a 50.59 review.



“Nothing”

I was reviewing the annual reports to the NRC. I noticed that the reported unexplained scrams were significantly increasing every year. So, I asked an operator what are we doing to understand and correct this trend, thus the quote.

The issue was the scram safety system power supply was deteriorating which occasionally sent electrical spikes resulting in spurious scrams.



“It was in better condition than what was in there”

We did an extensive study of the aluminum elements history, so I better understand why the elements cladding breached. I was interested in any parameters that I can use to eliminate other AI elements.

Why was element 1780 placed back in the core?

I identified element #1780 that had cladding breached but not stuck. It was stuck in an earlier core and removed and noted as damaged (not to be returned)



“Fuel Just Fails” (aka “Shit Happens”)

My operating/admin staff, RSO, and I were in the conference room with two NRC visitors; When one of the NRC representatives began to depart his wisdom concerning how we obtained 22 breached TRIGA aluminum elements. The quote was his response.

A year earlier in 2017, I authored a root-cause analysis describing the reasons for fuel failure.

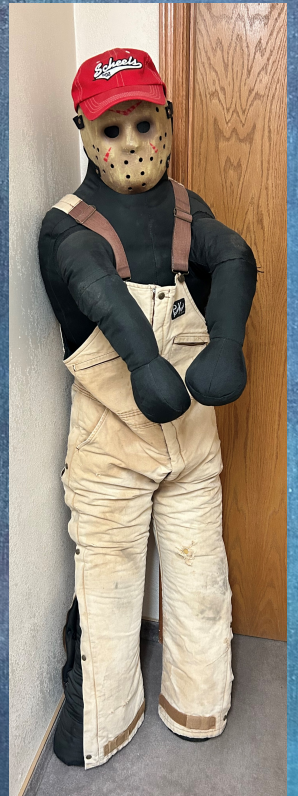


“See!!!.....[...] Agrees With Us”

After the NRC staff had left the facility, the AO staff returned to summarize the discussion and our path forward.

The quote was the provided by an SRO repeating the operator’s belief that our actions did not influence the cladding breach of 22 Al TRIGA elements.

Recall, they participated in formulating the root-cause analysis describing the fuel failure.



“Assume We Know Nothing”

I was told the following quote when we were seeking guidance in the detail needed for information to be included in the modification of license and technical specifications.

Our request was more inline with wanting a citation for regulatory guide other than NUREG 1537 and/or existing examples.



“We Can’t Find Them”/ “I Could Not Find It”

The quotes came from two different NRC staffers on two separate security audits giving me the status of my security plan in their possession.

Needless to say, I understand we all misplace documents.....but our security plans! Now that is funny!



“We could not find anyone that remembers being at Aerotest Operations”

Back story is we have been in operation since 1965 and we have been inspected annually. The quote was stated in a visit from NRC staff. The visit was an outcome of NEIMA 2019 It was believed visiting a licensee would reduce cost and time to complete a task. (At that time, we could have listed the names of NRC staff that still work for the agency.)

To our surprise, fuel related questions were absent from the visit but were the center piece of the follow up inquiry.



An abstract painting with a complex composition of dark, swirling colors. The left side features a grid of blue and black squares, while the right side is dominated by bright orange and green. A signature 'Paul' is visible in the bottom right corner.

“We can be in regulatory compliance
and still not operate safely”

“YesLets Do It”