

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Memorandum of Interview

Case No: 07-63

On June 25, 2008, Jim BATCHLER, Senior Vice President Human Resources, General Electric (GE) Hitachi Nuclear was interviewed by Special Agents (SA's) (b)(7)c and (b)(7)c Office of the Inspector General (OIG), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), concerning a potential conflict of interest by a former NRC Commissioner while seeking post employment opportunities. BATCHLER provided essentially the following information.

BATCHLER stated that as Senior Vice President Human Resources, he is responsible for human resource functions which include hiring, compensation, labor relations, organizational designs, training, and disciplinary actions. BATCHLER first learned of Jeffrey MERRIFIELD, former NRC Commissioner in May 2007, when MERRIFIELD was referred to GE by Andrew WHITE, Vice President, GE Nuclear. BATCHLER believed that WHITE learned about MERRIFIELD seeking employment within the nuclear industry through Christopher CRANE, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Exelon. BATCHLER explained that it was not unusual for executives to contact GE with referrals of candidates.

BATCHLER had several phone calls with MERRIFIELD relating to MERRIFIELD's interest in the Business Development position at GE. Although BATCHLER spoke with MERRIFIELD several times, BATCHLER did not recall ever meeting MERRIFIELD. BATCHLER stated that he vaguely recalled a discussion concerning MERRIFIELD using someone to explore employment opportunities. However, BATCHLER did not remember ever having contact with Steve ENGELMEYER, agent for MERRIFIELD.

BATCHLER said that he consulted with Maureen YOUNG, Legal Counsel, GE, to explore conflict of interest issues with regards to MERRIFIELD working for GE. GE Legal Department outlined the conditions of MERRIFIELD working for GE if he accepted the employment offer. BATCHLER explained that his last discussion with MERRIFIELD was in early June 2007, and during this conversation, he tried to convince MERRIFIELD to work for GE by outlining the benefits. BATCHLER learned that MERRIFIELD declined GE's employment offer shortly after his last conversation with MERRIFIELD. Although BATCHLER believed that MERRIFIELD was a good fit for GE, there were no counteroffers presented.

BATCHLER explained that he had no discussions with MERRIFIELD on regulatory licensing issues. Furthermore, BATCHLER said he had no knowledge of MERRIFIELD's participation in the Combined Operations Licensing Task Force.

Interviewed by Special Agent (b)(7)c
Interviewed by Special Agent (b)(7)c

MOI Prepared on July 10, 2008

MOI Reviewed on/by (b)(7)c 10/25

B/S
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