

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Memorandum of Interview

OIG Case No: 07-63

On February 6, 2008, Frank P. BONGRAZIO, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Holtec International, was interviewed by Special Agent (b)(7)c [redacted] Office of the Inspector General (OIG), NRC, regarding MERRIFIELD's search for post-government employment. BONGRAZIO provided essentially the following information:

BONGRAZIO indicated that he has been with Holtec for 16 years, serving in the financial operations area the entire time. He had never had personal contact with MERRIFIELD and did not know he was leaving the NRC. BONGRAZIO did not deal with policy matters, but occasionally had interaction with the NRC accounting staff on billing issues.

BONGRAZIO first learned that MERRIFIELD had been offered a position with Holtec when he received a copy of the e-mail offer from Kris SINGH, CEO, Holtec to MERRIFIELD. BONGRAZIO stated that SINGH as the owner and Chief Executive Officer of Holtec could and did make decisions about hiring executives unilaterally. As an example, he indicated that SINGH had recently acquired a new company involved in fossil fuels to become part of HOLTEC. SINGH verbally offered two individuals vice president positions within this new organization prior to informing BONGRAZIO.

BONGRAZIO stated that upon receipt of the OIG subpoena he had an administrative assistant review all vouchers for the time period indicated and they found the two vouchers which he provided in the response. BONGRAZIO stated he knew very little about either event, and he had not been in attendance at either one. He indicated that Holtec's records indicated that there had been no cash or check re-payments by any NRC individuals (to include MERRIFIELD) for either of the two meals noted on the receipts. BONGRAZIO stated that ONEID usually makes an entry on the voucher to show when an individual has paid for their portion of the bill. BONGRAZIO believed that the handwriting on the receipts was probably ONEID's, but indicated that it could also have been that of ONEID's secretary.

BONGRAZIO related that he believed that he subsequently heard from Pierre ONEID that MERRIFIELD had declined the position with Holtec. BONGRAZIO stated that he does not recall learning about where MERRIFIELD had obtained a job until he received the subpoena from NRC OIG and then learned that MERRIFIELD had gone to Shaw during various conversations. BONGRAZIO was not aware of any other companies MERRIFIELD may have been in negotiations with.

BONGRAZIO stated that the salary MERRIFIELD was offered was identical to that received by ONEID. He noted that since they would have both been senior vice presidents, it was an appropriate salary for Holtec. However, BONGRAZIO felt that the salary was low for a former NRC Commissioner. Based on various items he had read in the media about other former federal government executives and their post-government employment, he believed that MERRIFIELD would receive much higher offers than Holtec's.

Interviewed by Special Agent (b)(7)c [redacted]
MOI Prepared on February [redacted]
MOI Reviewed by/on: [redacted]

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