

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Memorandum of Interview

OIG Case No: 07-63

On February 6, 2008, Pierre ONIED, Senior Vice President, Nuclear Division, Holtec International, was interviewed by Special Agent ^{(b)(7)(c)} [redacted] Office of the Inspector General (OIG), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), regarding MERRIFIELD's search for post-government employment. ONIED provided essentially the following information:

ONIED has served in his position since October 2005. He stated that in this position, he is responsible in large part for sales and marketing of Holtec products. Prior to this position, ONIED worked for Stone & Webster (S&W)/Shaw. With S&W/Shaw, ONIED had little direct interaction with the NRC. With Holtec he has had some, but most of ONIED's dealings are with customers for Holtec products, not with the NRC staff. ONIED indicated that his interaction has been primarily informal meetings at various conferences and meetings where NRC employees (to include MERRIFIELD) are in attendance. He stated that licensing and product/design certification activities are handled by others within Holtec.

ONIED stated he learned of MERRIFIELD's intended departure from the NRC in MERRIFIELD's public announcement, which ONIED believed he had read about in one of the nuclear trade publications. ONIED was also aware of MERRIFIELD using a lawyer in Philadelphia as part of his employment search. ONIED believed he learned of this from small talk with other individuals from the nuclear industry during informal conversations, perhaps at the 2007 Regulatory Information Conference (RIC). ONIED recalled having discussions around the same time with SINGH about the need for Holtec to attract more senior executive talent. ONIED indicated that these discussions were about the general need to recruit new employees to fill senior positions, not about MERRIFIELD in particular.

Shortly prior to the meeting on June 6, 2007, ONIED had a discussion with SINGH about possibility of employing MERRIFIELD. ONIED could not recall how the conversation came about, or how MERRIFIELD's name arose, but during the conversation ONIED stressed the need for new executives within Holtec. ONIED stated that in conjunction with other meetings he and SINGH had in Washington, DC, they met with MERRIFIELD for dinner in Rockville. ONIED did not arrange the dinner, but did attend the dinner. Most of the discussion was about Holtec and its general plans for the future. No offers of employment were made in his presence. ONIED stated that he was "excused" a couple of times so that SINGH and MERRIFIELD could talk privately.

ONIED indicated that the meeting on June 12, 2007, was not part of the employment process. ONIED was attending a conference and invited MERRIFIELD, his executive assistant, and Richard Hill, Southern Nuclear, and his wife to dinner. ONIED could not recall the executive assistant's complete name, only "John" as he had written on the receipt. He described John as a white male, in his 50's, but otherwise undistinguished. The dinner was not planned and the invitation was "spur of the moment" to join ONIED at a restaurant in the same facility as they were all staying. ONIED paid for the dinner for all in attendance. ONIED could not recall anyone providing cash or check

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reimbursement for their portion of the check. ONIED thought that MERRIFIELD may have said that John would take care of/follow-up with the repayment, but he was not certain.

ONIED indicated it was his handwriting on each of the credit card receipts submitted internally within Holtec for reimbursement. He further stated that government employees routinely repay for their portion of the bills, and that he would annotate the amounts given on his vouchers. On some occasions he would receive a check from a guest later, and ONIED would just provide the check to the Holtec accounting office for them to process.

ONIED believed he learned from SINGH that MERRIFIELD had turned down the offer from Holtec. He could not recall when this conversation occurred. ONIED had suspected that Shaw might have been in employment discussions with MERRIFIELD, however ONIED acknowledged that this may have been because he had been employed by Shaw himself previously. He did not know what MERRIFIELD's position with Shaw involved, but indicated that they have many positions which interact with the government, which he thought would be a good fit for MERRIFIELD.

Interviewed by (Special Agent
MOI Prepared on February 1
MOI Reviewed by/on:

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