

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

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW

OIG Case No: 07-63

On April 3, 2008, John THOMA, Office of the Chairman (OCM), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), was interviewed by Special Agent (SA) (b)(7)c and SA (b)(7)c (b)(7)c Office of the Inspector General (OIG), NRC, regarding recusal memoranda prepared by MERRIFIELD. THOMA provided essentially the following information:

THOMA stated that he did not recall seeing or being provided a copy of the memorandum to file signed by MERRIFIELD, and dated May 18, 2007, recusing himself from any activities related to General Electric (GE). THOMA stated that MERRIFIELD had only verbally informed him when he was engaged in employment discussions or negotiations with prospective employers. THOMA had created a handwritten listing of the firms and he kept this list in the notebook he carried on a daily basis. THOMA destroyed the list when he was getting rid of other documents as part of his office clean-out at the end of MERRIFIELD's term.

THOMA could not recall if GE had been one of the companies on the list. THOMA did recall that Westinghouse, Progress Energy, Holtec, and Shaw had been on the list, and further recalled that the list of firms had not been very long, but did likely include a few more firms which THOMA could not longer recall. THOMA did not know when or where MERRIFIELD may have employments discussions with GE.

THOMA could not recall any specific instructions given to him by MERRIFIELD regarding GE, nor any instructions to speak with John SZABO, Ethics Attorney, Office of General Counsel (OGC) NRC, regarding MERRIFIELD's interaction with GE. THOMA indicated that in general (b)(7)c (b)(7)c Office of Commissioner MERRIFIELD, or MERRIFIELD himself, would speak with SZABO regarding ethics issues.

THOMA indicated that following his interview with OIG on March 17, 2008, he consulted with SZABO regarding the meal provided by Holtec International. SZABO recommended he contact Holtec, which THOMA did. THOMA indicated that he sent a check for \$65, the amount recommended by Pierre ONIED, Holtec International, who had paid the restaurant bill originally. THOMA prepared a memorandum regarding this payment and provided a copy to OIG (*attached*).

Attachment:

As Stated

Interviewed by Special Agent
Special Agent

(b)(7)c

MOI Prepared on April 7, 2008

MOI Reviewed by/on

(b)(7)c

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