

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

Memorandum of Interview

Case No. 07-63

On June 25, 2008, Andrew C. WHITE, President and CEO, New Energy Ventures, GE Energy, was interviewed by Special Agents (b)(7)c [redacted] Office of the Inspector General (OIG), NRC regarding his interactions with former NRC Commissioner Jeffrey MERRIFIELD. WHITE provided essentially the following information.

WHITE stated that he was introduced to MERRIFIELD in 2003 when he (WHITE) became President and CEO of GE Nuclear Energy. Sometime in late 2006 or early 2007, he had a private face to face meeting with MERRIFIELD during which time MERRIFIELD told him that he would not be seeking another term as Commissioner. MERRIFIELD also indicated that he had a lawyer who would be representing him during his search for post government employment in private industry.

WHITE related that sometime in May 2007, he received a telephone call from Chris CRANE, CEO, Exelon, who advised that MERRIFIELD was looking at several employment opportunities in nuclear industry and he thought that MERRIFIELD would be a "good fit" for GE. WHITE stated that a referral from CRANE would be highly regarded because CRANE is highly regarded in the industry and has a good working knowledge of the NRC Chairman and Commissioners.

WHITE said he never met or spoke to Steve ENGLEMEYER, MERRIFIELD'S lawyer. He was not aware of specific details of discussions that ENGLEMEYER may have had with GE personnel regarding MERRIFIELD. However, he was aware that John KRENICKI, President and CEO, GE Energy spoke to ENGLEMEYER.

WHITE recalled that sometime in late May 2007, MERRIFIELD indicated that he could speak to industry representatives about employment because he was no longer making decisions as Commissioner that would affect industry.

WHITE stated that he consulted with GE's legal department regarding possible conflict of interest issues in the event that MERRIFIELD was hired by GE and discussed that MERRIFIELD would not be placed in an operating role to avoid any perception of or conflict of interest. He was aware that at GE's request, MERRIFIELD signed a form regarding conflict of interest.

WHITE stated that he provided information regarding a possible salary and benefit package for MERRIFIELD to David HUNT, Human Resource Manager, Global Mergers & Acquisitions, GE Energy.

WHITE said that GE wanted to place MERRIFIELD in a business development position, which would not have any impact on GE Nuclear. While White was aware that MERRIFIELD was being interviewed by various GE Energy personnel, he did not know of MERRIFIELD's decision not to take the job until he received an e-mail from Mark LEWIS, General Manager, GE Energy, indicating that MERRIFIELD had declined the

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offer. WHITE stated that he received a call from MERRIFIELD that same evening informing him of his decision not to accept GE's offer. According to WHITE, MERRIFIELD told him that he had accepted a position with another company that would place him in a better organizational position within the company.

WHITE stated that although he was disappointed that MERRIFIELD accepted a position with Shaw, his conversation with MERRIFIELD terminated in a positive note. WHITE said he did not recall whether he called CRANE to inform him of MERRIFIELD'S decision.

Interviewed by: (Special Agent
(Special Agent

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MOI prepared on: 11/10/2008

MOI reviewed by/c

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(Handwritten initials)