

College football scores: More scores in Sports, Section E

Florida	20	Tenn.-Chattanooga	27	Grambling	27	Mississippi State	31
LSU	0	SLU	7	Prairie View	7	Memphis State	28
Vanderbilt	24	Southern Miss	38	Nicholls State	39	Auburn	41
Tulane	17	USL	16	Bishop College	12	Ole Miss	0

The Times-Picayune

149th year No. 255 New Orleans

Sunday, October 6, 1985 50 cents

**Experts:
No hope
for boy
in rubble**

By The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — A team of

Mother's vigil



**Deficit lid
plan stalls
in Senate**

clear the way for a quick vote and

REGIONAL NEWS

Grand Gulf builder cut corners, ex-worker says

By LYNN CUNNINGHAM
Staff writer

General Electric Co., which built dozens of nuclear power plants including Grand Gulf 1 and 2, failed to ensure that all of their control room and reactor parts were made according to design specifications, according to a former worker at the company's plant in San Jose, Calif.

Sam Milam III, a 39-year-old nuclear engineer who worked at GE's nuclear headquarters in San Jose between 1972 and 1982, turned over thousands of GE documents he secretly photocopied during that time to the Government Accountability Project, a Washington-based legal group known for anti-nuclear activities and work with whistleblowers such as Milam. The GAP commissioned a study of Milam's records.

Milam's huge diary, described by GAP analyst Charles Stokes as "so thorough it's like sitting at a desk at GE for five years," recounts instances in which the company found a problem with its nuclear components and repaired them, but left the design specifications unchanged. Such action violates Nuclear Regulatory Commission rules, said Milam, who now has a non-nuclear engineering job in California.

"Without accurate design," Stokes said, "how do you know that the components aren't faulty? You don't."

Milam said that GE's extremely complex system for controlling design quality kept the NRC from discovering the problem. For example, he said, different departments within GE used different design manuals.

But both Milam and Stokes have emphasized that they can't point to a single safety problem at any GE nuclear plant.

"I am not saying that I have evidence of any safety problem or safety deficiency," Milam said. "But the lack of control in the design could lead to a safety problem. We had a very uncontrolled design change program that can't prove that anything will work."

GE, in a statement Friday, said it can't comment on Milam's charges until it studies them.

Grand Gulf 1 and 2, near Port Gibson, Miss., are owned by New Orleans-based Middle South Utilities. Grand Gulf 2 is unfinished, but Grand Gulf 1 is supplying power to customers of Louisiana Power & Light Co. and New Orleans Public Service Inc.

Milam said he is a firm believer in nuclear technology.

But, he said, GE cut corners to get equipment designed, manufactured and shipped to waiting customers. Prompt delivery became more important than accurate design, Milam said.

For instance, Milam recorded in his diary on March 27, 1980, that he noticed a problem on a control room panel that was ordered for several nuclear plants, including Grand Gulf 2. He notified a quality assurance employee of the problem, but a panel for a Tennessee Valley Authority nuclear plant was shipped even though the problem had not been corrected.

Milam said he kept records because "I realized some day a plant will blow up and people will come screaming at GE and my name is on some of the (design) documents. I want to be able to say I tried to do something about it."

He said he discovered that some of the forms were changed after he signed them, and he began keeping a "before-and-after" file.

GE's insistence that Milam return the copies led him to contact the GAP and go public with the information.

Stokes, a whistleblower who once worked at the troubled Diablo Canyon nuclear project, said Milam's records indicate that problems pervaded the GE division that designed and produced control room components, "the heart of the industry."

"It didn't matter who was manager," Stokes said, "the same problems existed from manager to manager."

"Sam found drawings that didn't match the equipment," Stokes said. "But Sam only looked at his work, and if they did it on his work, they did it everywhere. He wasn't there 24 hours a day. Who was going to find the other ones?"

Stokes also studied NRC safety records at five nuclear plants,

including Grand Gulf 1, to determine if the problems identified by Milam showed up in the reactors.

According to GAP's letter to the NRC, Stokes' analysis shows "evidence of problems at five GE plants that could have, or did, stem from the quality assurance/quality control breakdown reported to us."

After a year of studying Milam's records and working unsuccessfully with GE, the GAP said it decided to send a summary of Milam's findings to the NRC Friday. The GAP told the NRC it will present Stokes' study to the agency after an investigative group is appointed.

GE, in its statement Friday, said it has urged Milam for two years to outline his concerns, but he has refused.

Milam insists that for years he wrote memoranda to his GE supervisors outlining what he considered to be design problems and violations of NRC standards.

After GE laid off Milam in 1982, he wrote a report to the NRC outlining some of his complaints. Two NRC inspectors interviewed Milam for two days, and the commission audited GE's quality control program to check his allegations. Milam said the NRC directed GE to correct the problem.

But those complaints, a GAP lawyer said, represent less than 5 percent of Milam's findings. He came forward with the allegations contained in the GAP report last year.

GAP lawyer Billie Garde said recently that the group is particularly concerned about Milam's findings because the nuclear utility industry relies upon major vendors, such as GE, to ensure that equipment at reactors is designed, produced and tested properly.

The NRC requires nuclear part manufacturers to keep an elaborate system of records to verify that their parts are built according to federally approved standards.

There are 31 GE reactors operating in the United States, according to the Atomic Industrial Forum, a trade group.

"Design control breakdowns," said GAP lawyer Thomas Devine, "could lead to inaccurate reading in control rooms at 31 nuclear plants."

\$14 million raised to build Miss. church

By The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Four people slipped in pledges of \$1 million apiece, a widow cashed in her insurance and an anonymous

nation's largest collections ever for a church.

"People saw the need," said the Rev. Earl Craig, the pastor of the 7,000-member tree-shaded church in the shadow of the Mis-

Toronto, will give to the churches that he deems as having the nation's best music programs.

When leaders of the state's largest church organized the fund

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