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M. J. Bloch, Assistant General Manager
for Operations, Headquarters

S. R. Sapiro, Manager, GAO

RESPONSIBILITY FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY IN CIVIL FACILITIES

SYNOPSIS: A-1000

Attached for your information and use are copies of a letter dated September 5, 1962, to the United Nuclear Corporation, calling attention to significant problem areas identified in a health protection survey of the contract operations for which Oak Ridge Operations is responsible at United Nuclear's Hanford, Missouri facility.

It is our understanding that AEC contract and subcontract work administered by other than GAO is being performed at this facility and you may desire to furnish a copy of the September 5, 1962, letter to the appropriate contracting officers. Also, this facility is licensed to perform other than AEC contract work, and copies of our preliminary findings are being furnished the Director of Regulation. Copies of the formal visit report and appraisal will be furnished when available (estimated in about three weeks).

The Sison Committee report of the study of mixed facilities recommended action to eliminate inconsistent standards and overlapping (i.e., as between licensed and contract work in the same facility) inspections in the field of health and safety. The General Manager's memorandum of November 2, 1960, approved these recommendations and stated that a staff paper would be prepared to implement the Committee's recommendation. We urge that this paper be assigned a sufficiently high priority to assure its prompt accomplishment.

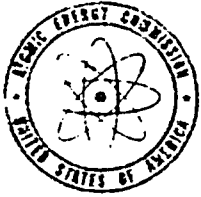
S. R. Sapiro

Enclosure:

11r fr S. R. Sapiro to United Nuclear Corp., dtd. 7/5/62 (12 cys)

cc: H. L. Price, Director of Regulation, Headquarters, w/encl.
E. C. Arnesen, w/encl.
O. E. Hiestand, w/o encl.
H. A. Roth, w/encl.

B-104



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

IN REPLY REFER TO:
HC:HL:HVV

Oak Ridge, Tennessee
September 5, 1962

United Nuclear Corporation
3600 North Second Street
St. Louis 7, Missouri

Attention: Charles D. Harrington, Vice President

Subject: PRELIMINARY HEALTH PROTECTION REVIEW - UNITED NUCLEAR CORPORATION

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the letter dated August 9, 1962, from L. Y. Horton to C. A. Keller confirming an on-site visit to your Hematite, Missouri, facility, by two members of our health protection staff, for the purpose of reviewing the safety of operations. The review of your health protection operations took place on August 30, 1962. We regret that other business prevented your plant manager from being present in order that our reviewers might have given him their preliminary observations prior to departure. A formal visit report and appraisal will be prepared within a few weeks and transmitted to you for comments and appropriate action.

Oak Ridge Operations Office has health and safety cognizance of all operations under contracts with the AEC administered from this office, of operations under subcontract with Union Carbide Corporation pursuant to its Contract W-7405-Eng-26 with the AEC, as well as certain responsibilities with respect to all materials which are assigned to your accountability station.

Pursuant to the article pertaining to Safety, Health and Fire Protection in the contracts and purchase orders listed in the attached appendix, you are instructed to follow as a minimum the health and safety provisions of the AEC regulations in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations which would apply if the particular operation or activity were formally subject to such regulations. In addition, there are a number of specific matters set forth below which have come to light as a result of the recent on-site visit of the United Nuclear Hematite Plant which should receive your immediate attention:

1. Conditions of air and surface contamination and methods of operation observed in your facility indicate that personnel may be subjected to exposure above the limits permitted by Title 10. Accordingly, you should initiate steps to ascertain the levels of internal uranium exposure, and to continue appropriate survey of such levels until it is conclusively determined that personnel exposures are minimal.

September 5, 1962

2. Existing emergency procedures are not adequate. Also, personnel responsible did not have sufficient familiarity with United Nuclear dosimetry systems to evaluate radiation exposures in the event of an emergency. More complete emergency procedures, as described in 10 CFR, Part 70, should be promptly formulated.
3. Control of contamination is in general inadequate. It is evident that contamination is permitted at a relatively high level and frequently spreads to uncontrolled areas. Despite these facts, United Nuclear recently removed requirements for showers for operating personnel. This lack of contamination control also extends to off-site shipments, which are not reliably checked for compliance with ICC regulations. Better contamination control procedures should be formulated and put into effect promptly.
4. Present facilities for and methods of storing special nuclear materials are inadequate and hazardous. It is quite evident that storage facilities were not planned to accommodate with safety the present inventory, necessitating the storage of special nuclear materials in processing areas. All special nuclear material should be stored in storage areas with adequate and properly marked physical spacing. Prompt reduction of the present inventory would also tend to alleviate the problem.
5. The number of geometrically unsafe containers in processing and storage areas is excessive and dangerous. This is particularly true in areas where uranium solutions are in overhead storage. All unsafe containers should be removed from these areas, or modified so that they will not hold critical quantities of materials, or else be positively controlled to prevent such accumulations of material.

Please advise me not later than October 1, 1962, of the action taken to comply with the foregoing requirements.

Very truly yours,



S. R. Sapirie
Manager
Oak Ridge Operations

Enclosure:
Appendix

CC: Harold E. Thayer, President
Mallinckrodt Chemical Works
St. Louis, Missouri

APPENDIX - LIST OF CONTRACTS AND PURCHASE ORDERS

Contracts

AT-(30-1)-2676
AT-(30-1)-2633
AT-(30-1)-2799

Purchase Orders

PO NY-60-1465
PO NY-60-2504
PO NY-61-1472-2
PO NY-61-2766
PO NY-62-75-3
PO NY-62-75-5
PO NY-62-220
PO NY-62-363-2
PO NY-62-410-2
PO NY-62-516-2