

2pgs

THIS IS UNITED NUCLEAR CORP. CLG.

JULY 29 1964

7/29/64

TIME

4-24 P

ACTION: Mr. Kirkman

U. S. A. F. C.

NEW YORK OPERATIONS OFFICE

TT #302

576 HUDSON STREET

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

ATTENTION - MR. E. W. KIRKMAN, DIRECTOR

DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE

THIS SUPPLEMENTS PREVIOUS WIRE REPORTING NUCLEAR INCIDENT 7/24/64 AT
WOOD RIVER JUNCTION, RHODE ISLAND.

ACCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN MR. ROBERT PEABODY POURED AN ENRICHED URANIUM
SOLUTION FROM A ELEVEN LITER SAFE GEOMETRY CYLINDER INTO A TWENTY GALLON
CHEMICAL MAKEUP TANK ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE EXTRACTION COLUMN TOWER.

PEABODY REMOVED HIMSELF FROM THE PLANT TO THE EMERGENCY CONTROL BUILD-
ING 200 YARDS FROM THE PLANT. SYMPTOMS ON ARRIVAL AT THE EMERGENCY
BUILDING WERE NAUSEA WITH VOMITING. PEABODY WAS TRANSFERRED TO RHODE
ISLAND HOSPITAL IN PROVIDENCE BY WESTERLY AMBULANCE ACCOMPANIED BY ONE
OPERATOR.

PLANT WAS OCCUPIED BY FIVE MEN AT TIME OF INCIDENT. ALL ASSEMBLED AT
EMERGENCY BUILDING AND CHANGED CLOTHING. SUPERVISOR CLIFFORD SMITH
SUMMONED AID BY TELEPHONE, ESTABLISHED ROAD BLOCK, AND ATTENDED PEA-

B-235

PLANT WAS RE-ENTERED (OUT 7-45 P.M. BY SMITH AND PLANT SUPERINTENDENT R. A. HOLTHAUS, WHO HAD BEEN CALLED TO THE PLANT. THEY DRAINED THE TWENTY GALLON TANK INTO A THREE INCH COLUMN AND PARTIALLY INTO ONE GALLON CONTAINERS.

AREA AROUND PLANT WAS MONITORED FOR BETA GAMMA CTIVITY BUT SHOWED ONLY LOW VALUES. CONTAMINATED MATERIAL WAS BELIEVED TO BE CONTAINED BECAUSE OF LOW ACTIVITY LEVELS INDICATED ON PORTABLE BETA GAMMA DETECTORS, AND DETAILS OF PLANT CONSTRUCTION IN THE AREA OF THE ACCIDENT.

REMAINING PERSONNEL SHOWERED AND CHANGED CLOTHING AGAIN IN PLANT AT 9-30 P. M. THEY WERE THEN SENT TO RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL, EXAMINED AND RELEASED.

RADIATION MONITORING AND AIR SAMPLING WERE CONTINUED THROUGH THE NIGHT WITH NO APPARENT DANGER TO THE PUBLIC SHOWN.

INVESTIGATION OF INCIDENT HAS BEGUN. A FULL REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED BY UNITED NUCLEAR CORPORATION

ROBERT C. JOHNSON

MANAGER, CHEMICALS OPERATIONS

UNITED NUCLEAR CORPORATION

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

END PLS AK

R 1 OK TNX WMT

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JUL 31 1964

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