

AUG 7 1964

Mr. John T. Conway  
Executive Director  
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy  
Congress of the United States

Dear Mr. Conway:

The following reports received from United Nuclear Corporation on the incident at Wood River Junction, Rhode Island, are forwarded for your information:

TX dated July 23, 1964 - from J. A. Lindberg  
Vice President, UNC  
TX dated July 29, 1964 - from R. C. Johnson, Manager  
Chemical Operations, UNC  
Letter dated July 30, 1964 - from J. A. Lindberg  
Vice President, UNC

Sincerely yours,

( signed ) Harold L. Price

Harold L. Price  
Director of Regulation

Enclosure:  
Copy of above noted reports

bcc: Cong. Liaison (2)  
OGC (2)  
Compliance Div., HQ (2)

OFFICE ▶	SLR:EB RGPage-11m	SLR ERPrice	CO DLow	REG HLPrice	OCP
SURNAME ▶	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
DATE ▶	8-6-64	8.		8/6/64	8/7

JULY 28 1964

ACTION: Mr. Kirkman

THIS IS UNITED NUCLEAR CORP. CLG.

7/28/64 TIME 1-36 P

TT #280

U. S. A. E. C.

NEW YORK OPERATIONS OFFICE

376 HUDSON STREET

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

ATTENTION R. W. KIRKMAN

DIRECTOR DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE

THIS IS TO NOTIFY YOU OFFCXXX OFFICIALLY OF THE OCCURENCE OF AN ACCIDENTAL NUCLEAR CRITICALITY INCIDENT AT UNITED NUCLEAR CORPORATION- S FUELS RECOVERY PLANT IN WOOD RIVER JUNCTION, RHODE ISLAND, 6-06 P.M. JULY 24, 1964. THE AEC WAS NOTIFIED VERBALLY A FEW MINUTES AFTER THE INCIDENT THROUGH NATHAN WOODRUFF OF THE WASHINGTON OFFICE.

J A LINDBERG

VICE PRESIDENT

UNITED NUCLEAR CORPORATION

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

END PLS ACK

TELETYPE SECTION  
JUL 29 1 42 PM '64  
U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COM.  
NEW YORK OPERATIONS OFFICE

R 1 OK TNX WM

THIS IS UNITED NUCLEAR CORP. CLG.

7/29/64

TIME

4-24 P

JULY 29 1964

ACTION: Mr. Kirkman

U. S. A. E. C.

NEW YORK OPERATIONS OFFICE

TT #302

376 HUDSON STREET

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

ATTENTION - MR. R. 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 PEABODY.

PLANT WAS RE-ENTERED OUT 7-45 P.MO 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 4 OK TNX WMT

RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE  
JUL 31 PM 4 25  
1964  
TELETYPE SECTION  
JUL 27 4 39 PM '64  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMM.  
OPERATIONS OFFICE

70-820

**UNITED NUCLEAR**  
C O R P O R A T I O N

July 30, 1964

P O BOX 1883  
388 WINCHESTER AVENUE  
NEW HAVEN CONN 06508  
777 8261

Mr. Harold L. Price  
Director of Regulation  
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

As a follow-up on our official communications to you notifying you of a nuclear criticality incident at United Nuclear Corporation's Fuels Recovery plant in Wood River Junction, Rhode Island, operations of a production nature at the plant have ceased.

Decontamination work is proceeding and the accumulation of data for incorporation into United Nuclear's report to the Atomic Energy Commission of the incident is taking place.

We will not begin operations of a production nature in this plant before a conference is held with you and your designees for purposes of presenting to you our findings, current plant status and our remaining courses of action.

When this information has been accumulated in presentable form, we will request such a conference with you.

Very truly yours,



J. A. Lindberg  
Vice President

JAL:jh

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