

10-19-64

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

1964

TO : Robert W. Kirkman, Director
Region I, Division of Compliance

DATE: 1964

FROM : Willis G. Browne, Inspection Specialist (Criticality)
Region I, Division of Compliance *W.G.B.*

SUBJECT: POST-INCIDENT CHANGES IN EMERGENCY PLANS AND PROCEDURES

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Both the Fuels Recovery Plant at Wood River Junction, Rhode Island, and the State of Rhode Island have reviewed the emergency plans and procedures that should be followed when a nuclear incident or contamination problem occurs. In a meeting with Mr. Holthaus and Mr. Amato, the actions that have been taken to improve the emergency plans that were in effect prior to July 24, 1964, were discussed and the following information was presented:

On Thursday, September 10, 1964, Stollak and Holthaus of UNC met with Major James A. Iacoi, Rhode Island State Police, General McGreevy, Director of Rhode Island Council of Civil Defense and Mr. Santo Azato, Assistant to the Director, Rhode Island Council of Civil Defense, to discuss future emergency plans for the Wood River Junction Plant. Items covered were:

1. The establishment of a "Hot" line from the emergency shack to the Hope Valley Barracks of the Rhode Island State Police. It was suggested that "Hot" line phones should be red in color and should ring continuously at the barracks until answered. The announcement of a nuclear excursion via this line would be automatic notification to the Council of Civil Defense and to local law enforcement officers.
2. The establishment of the emergency shack as a fixed monitoring station so that Civil Defense survey meters of the high range type can be assigned to the shack by the Council of Civil Defense.
3. The Cross Mills Fire Department Rescue Squad and the Hope Valley Ambulance Corps have both been trained by the Council of Civil Defense organization and are qualified to handle any type of casualty, including radiation casualties, that might occur at the Wood River Junction Plant. These units are the ones nearest to the Fuels Recovery Plant.

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4. General McGreevy reported that the July 24th incident was discussed at a recent conference attended by:

Mr. Monigle, Assistant Superintendent of the Rhode Island Hospital

Dr. Cannon, Rhode Island State Director of Public Health Services

Dr. Lawlor, Chairman of the Medical Disaster Committee for the State of Rhode Island Medical Association

At the conference, plans were laid for extensive state-wide training programs for Fire Departments, Police organizations, Hospitals, Rescue Squads, and Ambulance Corps. In the future, the Rhode Island Hospital in Providence is to be the "first choice" hospital, and it is now adequately staffed to handle any kind of radiation damage case.

5. Mr. Santo Amato reported that he is beginning a series of refresher courses at all seven State Police Barrack sites and for the local Ambulance Corps personnel.

Later, on September 10, 1964, Mr. Stollak and Holthaus contacted Mr. Shepard, Assistant to Commander Stanhouse of the Westerly Ambulance Corps. He stated that the unit is meeting each Friday night for training purposes. They are now prepared to handle any type of casualty from the Fuels Recovery Plant.

The United Nuclear Corporation has reviewed emergency evacuation plans and has taken the following actions to implement their present plans:

1. UNC has purchased 150 large plastic bags 38" by 65" by 0.003 mils thick, to be used for covering equipment such as mattresses, for placing contaminated equipment in them, or for enclosing a contaminated person to prevent the further spread of contamination. They have given six of these plastic bags to Civil Defense personnel, Hope Valley Ambulance Corps, Cross Mills Fire Department Rescue Squad, etc.

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2. The Fuels Recovery Plant has purchased all decontamination chemicals listed in "Medical Aspects of Radiation Accidents" by Eugene L. Saenger, M.D. (USAEC) and instructions for their use have been given to all personnel at the Fuels Recovery Plant.
3. Plans are being discussed for the plant telephone at the shack and an automatic tape recorder is under consideration for monitoring all phone calls made from this phone.
4. At a cost of about \$700, all exit doors have been equipped with panic lock bars and luminescent paint is being applied for identifying the door in the dark.

Mr. Amato reported that the following actions have been taken in the State of Rhode Island:

1. Dr. Karas has published a booklet that reviews all events that occurred at the hospital when Mr. Peabody was admitted, and this booklet is being used for the training of Rhode Island Hospital personnel.
2. A trailer containing equipment which duplicates that in the CD emergency vehicle, and a 2500 watt generator to run the equipment, is to be located at Wickford Barracks. This trailer will service both the Fuels Recovery Plant and the Reactor Site. The trailer will contain a proportional counter and scaler, a neutron detector and an air sampler.
3. At eight State Police Barracks, a background reading is taken each day and is reported by teletype to Santo Amato. This procedure has been used for two years and keeps State Police familiar with the use of radiation detection instruments. CD instruments assigned to the State Police Barracks are the Geiger-Mueller Model 700 (0-50 mr gamma), Model 715 (0-500 r gamma), and Model 720 (0-500 r beta-gamma).
4. Special containers are being developed (ammunition boxes lined with Styro foam) so the instruments can be carried in the police cars. At present, the instruments are calibrated every six months with a cesium source.