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KEITH W. AMISH
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
ELECTRIC AND STEAM

May 31, 1972

TELEPHONE
AREA CODE 716 546-2700

Mr. Lawrence D. Low
Director, Division of Compliance
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Subject: R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant Unit No. 1
Docket 50-244

Dear Mr. Low:

Notice is hereby given, as required by 10 CFR 20.405, of the potential exposure of a higher than permissible concentration of radioactive material to a plant workman on the date of May 3, 1972.

This workman, an employee of a sub-contractor, was one of several men operating grit blasting equipment in the primary side of the steam generator, preparing the surfaces for examination.

Preparations for the steam generator inspection had included extensive practice in a full sized mock-up. Teams of workmen, health physicists and technicians were established to perform the work under the surveillance and control of the health physicists. Each of these men was issued a dosimeter and two film badges, one of which was a TLD for daily checks of exposure.

This workman, upon entering the steam generator and starting the grit blasting equipment became aware that his face mask was not functioning properly and he exited from the area. It is estimated that he was in the steam generator for 32 seconds.

An examination in the station Health Physics Laboratory showed the presence of Cobalt-58, Cobalt-60 and Iodine-131. Preliminary determination at this point indicated a receipt of less than 20 percent of the allowable body burden of contaminating isotopes. However, it was considered advisable to send him to the Radiation Management Corporation laboratories (RMC) in Philadelphia for additional tests, including a whole body count. Prior to the count in the station laboratory, nose blows and irrigation of his throat was done and the subject took two showers which completely removed external contamination.

A whole body count was made by RMC of the subject on the day of the incident. He was counted in both the prone and supine position and the data averaged. Eleven isotopes were identified with only four isotopes

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DATE May 31, 1972
TO Mr. Lawrence D. Low

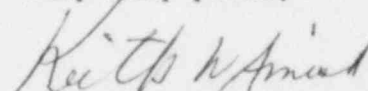
being in concentrations considered worthy of investigation, namely Cobalt-60, Cobalt-58, Cerium-144 and Iodine-131.

The whole body count was repeated at RMC on May 4 and again on May 8, 1972. By the latter count 65 percent of the initial activity had been cleared from the body. This was substantiated by RMC from examination of feces and urine samples collected over the period. The isotopes of concern, Cobalt-60, Cobalt-58 and Cerium-144 were determined on this date to be 5, 3, and 4 percent respectively, of the maximum permissible body burden. The Iodine-131 dose was determined to be 450 mrem in total.

The subject had not worked in a radioactive environment prior to the months of April and May of 1972 and his film badge results for these months were 1490 and 420 mrem, respectively.

The subject returned to work at the station on May 9, 1972. The disconnection of the air hose from the air mask was evidently a result of the failure to tighten the threaded connection. This procedure had been faultless prior to this incident and also since, for the large number of personnel engaged in this particular operation.

Very truly yours,


Keith W. Amish

Attachment

xc: Mr. James P. O'Reilly

Attachment to letter to Director, Division of Compliance dated May 31, 1972:

Notice is hereby given, as required by 10 CFR 20.405, of the exposure of Jesse M. Gillespie, Social Security Number 090-38-7523, date of birth February 14, 1945, to a potential radiation dose in excess of allowable. The individual has been notified as required by 10 CFR 20.405b.