

Transcript of Tape-recording

March 1, 1983

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At 9:00 this morning I contaminated my office with Co-60. Approximately 20 microcuries I would estimate got on 15 different locations approximately within my office including 3 people; myself, Joe Lupton, and Bill Pemberton. We were trying to make radiographs with one of those hot speck, that we had captured from the vat below the high bay area some time ago and in doing the speck which was only about 10 micron in size, apparently ruptured the masking tape that it was on and the Saran wrap that was stuck over the source that was stuck to the masking tape apparently was radiation damaged. When we put it on the Polaroid film, it cross-contaminated the Polaroid film, that in turn cross-contaminated the Polaroid film developer. My hands became contaminated, about 6 millirem per hour on each hand. It's pretty hot contamination. This speck was one of those hot one from gamma industry days of about 100 Curies per gram at this time. Part of this speck came loose and got on various things in the room and on 3 people. My right hair just above my ear was contaminated about 20,000 cpm with an E-120. Joe Lupton's hands were contaminated about 10,000 cpm on an E-120. He subsequently left the room before we found contamination in the room, while we were doing this and went to the restroom downstairs and cross-contaminated his vital organ. We put him in the shower. He had about 600 cpm on his vital organ and he decontaminated very nicely. The water drained into the hold tanks where it can be analyzed if there is any to be seen. I washed completely. I took a shower following Joe's shower. After we had frozen in the room and controlled the contamination so that there was no contamination detected in the hall outside room 155 at the Nuclear Research Center (my office). It was an embarrassing thing and it was a kind of stupid thing on the part of the Radiological Safety Officer to assume that this speck would stay put and not cross-contaminate, but we took immediate action within about 3 minutes of the contamination and controlled it very nicely. It did take about 6 hours to get the place back to normal and some of the items that got contaminated primarily were on my desk. The telephone was contaminated about 5,000 cpm on the receiver and one of the buttons. Some of my paperwork to the right on my desk got contaminated, my calculator was contaminated over 70,000 cpm with a Pancake E-120. The floor was contaminated in one spot down in the center of the room to about 50,000 cpm on an E-120. One of the geiger counters got contaminated to about 6,000 cpm and several other items became contaminated. All of it was controlled and kept in this room. Bill Pemberton's hands read about 600 cpm. He immediately washed them off in the decon room. As far as I can tell at this time and it is now 5:30 in the afternoon (my office was under control by 3:00) and there is no contamination of any significance left anywhere uncontrolled today. Dr. Russell was informed. We made the decision earlier that there was no need to make any report of this to the State

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Docket No. 50-160-REN EXHIBIT NO. 31
 In the matter of Go Jan
☐ Staff ☒ Applicant ☐ Intervenor ☐ Other
☒ Identified ☒ Received ☐ Rejected Reporter WLW
 Date 5/31/96 Witness RB

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and Federal people. This is not a reportable incident. Dr. Carter was informed when we were at our height of cleaning up. He was informed when it was cleaned up. This was an unfortunate situation that happened and we tackled it and I don't believe we will have any more problems with this one. All of the contaminant and the original speck were thrown in the radioactive waste can out in our barn and controlled properly. Joe Lupton lost his trousers and I lost a sweater, a shirt, and my trousers. Steve Millspaugh was not in the room while we were trying to make these radiographs with this speck and he came to our aid and assisted us. Two of our student assistants assisted us. We used them as gofers to go get bags while we stayed in the room so we wouldn't spread the contamination. I think in general we did a good job of controlling it. We were a little slow in getting our students to respond to the emergency because they had never had anything like this happen. It was understandable that they would not understand what was going on, but we controlled it very nicely and I see that we will be talking about this probably to the Committee at the next Radiation Protection Committee Meeting. No one took any unusual dose. I would say possibly if anybody took any dose I may have taken 6 to 10 millirem to the hands while we controlled the area. Everybody that had contamination on their hands, Bill, Joe, and myself put gloves on so we controlled the contamination and then we could go wash our hands at a later time. But during the time while we were waiting I may have taken 6 to 10 millirem to my hands. At 5 minutes till 6 on March 1, 1983 I made a geiger counter probe survey up and down the hall from room 155 at the Nuclear Research Center where we had the contamination of cobalt today and now cleaned up. I wanted to make a check to see that we had none tracked down the hall and a last minute check. Checked the rug at the door leading out to Atlantic Drive and found no activity at any point. Went to the bathrooms, checked the doorknobs, checked all the knobs on the plumbing, checked the floor as much as I could. I found no unusual activity above normal background at any point.