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AEC DEN GO AHEAD PLS

303-237-00655 FM 910-937-0740 GSA 11-27-68

AECW

P 271921Z NOV 68

FM RICHARD G ELLIOTT USAEC ALBUQUERQUE NMEX

TO BY3/JOHN A HARRIS USAEC WASHDC

A03/D I WALKER ATTN J J WARD USAEC DIR REGION IV COMPLIANCE OFFICE
DENVER COLO

BV3/M C CORBETT USAEC IDAHO FALLS IDAHO

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BT

UNCLAS COMPLIANCE DIVISION IV ADVISED US ABOUT 10\45 A.M. TODAY OF THE
RUPTURE IN AN ATLAS MINERALS CO. CONTAMINATED WASTE PIPE AT MOAB,
UTAH\ DESCRIBED INVESTIGATOR J. J. WARD\ S FINDINGS\ SAID WE HAD
NOT BEEN ADVISED EARLIER BECAUSE ATLAS HAD REPORTED THERE WAS NO PUB-
LICITY\ SAID THAT A SALT LAKE CITY DESERET NEWS REPORTER HAD TALKED
WITH ATLAS AND HAD JUST PHONED TO ASK MORE DETAILS AND HAD BEEN REF-
ERRED TO ALO-INFORMATION\ AND SAID A MOAB RADIO STATION HAD CARRIED
A STORY. PARA. I TOLD WARD I SHOULD GIVE THE FACTS, AS GIVEN TO ME BY
HIM, TO THE DESERET NEWS AS PER THE TEST BELOW, AND HE HAD NO OBJECTION.
I CHECKED WTH DPI-WASHINGTON, FOUND THEY HAD A COPY OF COMPLIANCE\ S
REPORT TO THE COMMISSION, WAS ADVISED THAT THE AEC USUALLY DOES NOT
ANTICIPATE LABORATORY FINDINGS, BUT NO OBJECTION WAS EXPRESSED TO MY
PROPOSED HANDLING. PARA. THE FOLLOWING WAS GIVEN TO STEVE HALE,
DESERET NEWS REPORTER, AT 11\15 A.M. WHO SAID IT WOULD FULLY MEET

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HIS NEEDS. HE EXPRESSED THANKS FOR PROMPT HANDLING.

THE TEST GIVEN TO THE PAPER\

J.J. WARD, INVESTIGATIONS SPECIALIST IN THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION\ COMPLIANCE DIVISION IV OFFICE IN DENVER, HAS ADVISED ME THAT HE VISITED THE ATLAS MINERALS COMPANY OPERATION AT MOAB ON TUESDAY. HE FOUND THE FOLLOWING\

THE PIPE CARRYING A SLURRY OF SOLID WASTE TO A RETENTION POND FOR TREATMENT RUPTURED SATURDAY MORNING, RELEASING 200-300 GALLONS PER MINUTE OF SLURRY INTO A DRY WASH. MUCH OF THE MATERIAL WENT INTO THE GROUND, BUT SOME PORTION DISCHARGED INTO THE COLORADO RIVER, THE PIPE WAS REPAIRED WITHIN TWO HOURS.

THE RADIOACTIVITY OF THE SLURRY DISCHARGING INTO THE RIVER WAS WELL BELOW THE MINIMUM GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC PROTECTION OR FOR FISH PROTECTION.

SAMPLES OF RIVER WATER WERE TAKEN PERIODICALLY AT VARIOUS POINTS TO FOUR MILES DOWNSTREAM. THEY ARE NOW UNDERGOING LABORATORY ANALYSIS. OUT OF HIS EXPERIENCE, MR. WARD FEELS QUITE CERTAIN THE ADDITIONAL RADIOACTIVITY DISPERSED IN THE RIVER WATER WILL NOT BE DETECTABLE BY THE LABORATORY. ID\ARGE

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