## COMPLIANCE INVESTIGATION REPORT

DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE

REGION V

Subject

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U. S. Nuclear Corporation 801 N. Lake Street. Burbank, California License No. SNM-1002

Type A exposure to personnel, and shutdown of facility from a Plutonium 238 release on January 18, 1968.

Period of Investigation: January 2" - 30, 1968.

22/68 ate) Investigator john J. Investigator: 97A (Date) R. Metzger Beak 3/22/68 (Date) 6 Reviewer: Herbert E. Book

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#### REASON FOR INVESTIGATION

An anonymous telephone call was received by Region V on January 22, 1968. The caller reported extensive contamination at the licensee's facility, caused by cutting into a source capsule. It was decided to conduct an investigation.

#### SUMMARY OF FACTS

On January 18, 1968, the active portion of a 35-curie Pu-Be neutron source was cut into when two licensee employees attempted to remove its outer encapsulation. The operation was performed in a clean, open machine shop area on the licensee's premises with no provision for containment of the contamination, and with inadequate health and safety procedures. The incident resulted in extensive contamination to the operating portion of the facility, machine shop, and the shipping dock, as well as spotty contamination throughout the office area of the facility, the rooftop of the building and sidewalks in the vicinity of the building. Contamination was picked up on employees' shoes, cars, and clothing and was tracked to three of their homes. Although plutonium contamination was exhausted through a forced air vent in the roof to the outside of the facility, there was no alpha contamination in air samples collected at a State sampling station two miles distant. Vegetation and soil samples taken within a two-block radius of the plant showed no significant dispersion of alpha activity to the environment. One licensee employee who cut into the capsule ingested by aspiration between 150 and 230 manocuries of Pu-238, as determined by whole body counting. This represents approximately 12 lung burdens. The health physicist and two other persons involved received less than one lung burden each as determined by whole body counting. An AEC medical consultant assisted the licensee's physician in evaluating the exposures. Publicity consisted of one factual local news story resulting from a release made by the licensee. Items of noncompliance determined during the investigation, all of which contributed to or were caused by the incident, are as follows:

#### 10 CFR 20.403(a) and (b) - Reporting Requirements

 in that the licensee did not notify the Atomic Energy Commission either immediately or within 24 hours, although the loss of the facility was for more than a week (see paragraph 3, Details).

#### License No. SNM-1002 - Authorized Use

- The licensee performed operations not authorized by the license in that, plutonium-beryllium sources were fabricated in quantity greater than the 12 authorized under the license and in strength different from the 400-curie sources authorized by the license (see paragraphs 1, 2, 17, and 44. Details).
- in that a location in a machine shop area, not authorized by the license was used for work on a plutonium source (see paragraphs 11, 13 and 18, Details).
- in that a cutting operation, not authorized by the license, was performed on the source (see paragraphs 1, 9, and 10, Details).
- in that U. S. Nuclear administrative procedures submitted by USN application letter of March 22, 1967, were not followed in regard to the specific responsibilities of the corporate Radiological Safety Officer (see paragraphs 6 and 46, Details).

#### 10 CFR 20.201(b) - Surveys

- in that surveys, i.e., adequate evaluations of radiation hazards, were not made incident to the use of radioactive materials. Most of the evaluations subsequent to the incident were made at the insistence of the AEC investigators (see paragraphs 8, 10, 36, 37, 40, and 41, Details).

#### 10 CFR 20.401 - Records of Surveys

 in that no records of surveys were made of the radiation exposures of the individuals involved in the Pu-238 incident (see paragraph 21, Details).

### 10 CFR 20.103(a) - Exposure of Inde duals

- in that the licensee used licensed material in such a manner that individuals in restricted areas were caused to be exposed to airborne Pu-238 concentrations in excess of Part 20 limits (see paragraphs 30, and 37, Details).

### 10 CFR 20.401 - Records of Surveys

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 in that no records of air sample surveys had been maintained by the licensee of operations conducted prior to the incident, but subsequent to the AEC inspection of December, 1967 (see paragraph 21, Details).

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#### Background

- Licenso No. SNM-1002, issued April 6, 1967, authorized U. S. Nuclear Corporation to receive 12 metal pellets of Pu-238 of 24 grams each for the preparation of Pu-Be sources. Each source was to have been approximately 400 curies in strength, and to have been doubly encapsulated in stainless steel. The license does not authorize removal of this encapsulation. Twelve Pu-Be sources were fabricated under a Westinghouse Bettis Atomic Power Plant contract for the U. S. Navy, Order No. 73-DY-373024-M, (Exhibit A). The 12 sources were completed on schedule, tested according to the license and specifications, and had been shipped.
- Westinghouse then contracted with the licensee to fabricate seve. additional smaller sources under Order No. 73-Y-377762, (Exhibit B). These sources are similar in design to the larger ones and were to be approximately 45 curime in strength, and to have been made from another 24 grams of metal in one , plutonium pellet provided by the Westinghouse Company. These seven sources also were to have been doubly encapsulated in stainless steel, tested, and shipped to the Bettis Plant. The order had been received on October 16, 1967, and the 24-gram Pu metal pellet for the order was received on November 17, 1967.

#### Introduction

- 3. On January 22, 1968, Region V received an anonymous telephone call which On January 22, 1968, Region V received an anonymous employees of the licensee, EX. 6 reported that in the evening of January 18, 1968, three employees of the licensee, EX. 6 had been involved in an incident wherein a source had been cut open, which resulted in general contamination of the licensee's facility. On January 22, 1968, Herbert E. Book, Senior Radiation Specialist Region V, attempted to clarify the matter in telephone calls to Frank Colling the licensee's Health Physicist, and George Harwood, the licensee's Radiological Safety Officer. These persons admitted to a contamination incident at the facility which they minimized, and stated it was not a reportable incident. No written report of the incident was made until the investigation was under way (see paragraph 44, and Exhibit M).
- As a result of these conflicting reports, and in view of the potential hazards from plutonium contamination, an investigation of the incident was decided upon, and the State Health Department was informed. Investigation commenced on January 23, and continued through January 30, 1968. J. R. Metzger, Radiation Specialist, Region V, and J. J. Ward, Investigation Specialist, Region IV, conducted the investigation. James Heacock of the State Division of Industrial Safety assisted with the initial surveys. AEC Medical Consultant, Dr. Kenneth McCormack, and the Director, Division of Information, SAN, Rodney Southwick, assisted the licensee in a medical evaluation of the exposures and in its press release. The investigation consisted of interviewing personnel involved, making independent surveys of the premises and environment, and auditing of surveys and bioassays made and contracted for by the licensee.
- 5. Subsequent to the initial period of investigation, Region V Radiation Specialists revisited the facility on February 5-9, February 15, 20-21, 1968, for the observation of decontamination procedures, verification of areas decontaminated, and for observation of radiographic testing of the remaining sources to be shipped on the Westinghouse order. Interim reports of those activities, with appropriate enclosures, were submitted to Compliance Headquarters by memoranda dated March 8 and March 11, 1968. Some of the enclosures are duplicated as exhibits to this report.

## Investigation, January 23-30, 1968

Interview with George E. Harwood, Radiological Safety Officer, Vice President and General Manager, U. S. Nuclear

George E. Harwood was the first person contacted at the facility the afternoon of January 23, 1968. He was informed that the investigators were there because of the advice to Region V that there had been a contamination incident at the facility. Harwood stated that there had been a contamination incident at the

facility. Harwood stated that there had been an incident which occurred the evening of January 18, 1968. He stated the two individuals who had been contaminated were and the stated and that fecal and urine samples had been obtained from them. He stated was out that very afternoon buying a large vacuum cleaner for decontamination of the building. Harwood stated that after the incident had occurred contamination had been tracked from the operations area of the building into the office area, and that some had actually been found in Harwood's office, apparently tracked in by when he made several telephone calls to Harwood the evening of January 18. When asked what caused the contamination, Harwood stated it had been caused by cutting into the outer capsule of a double sealed plutonium beryllium source. Harwood stated that on January 18 at about 5:30 p.m. as he was making a final tour of the plant before going home that evening he observed

hack in the health physics office and made some joke about them not being on overtime and stating that it was time to go home. Harwood stated that he did not know they were planning to cut into the capsule that evening. He stated he had not known or approved of any plans for cutting into it. Harwood stated that the Isotope Committee of the licensee was essentially disbanded, had not met for several months, and had not been consulted in regard to the cutting operations. (The licensee's March 22, 1967, application letter states that detailed procedures will be approved by the Isotope Committee prior to work. Attached to that letter are ICN procedures. Section 3 of these procedures specify the specific responsibilities of the Corporate Radiological Safety Officer /Harwood7. These procedures were not followed.) Harwood stated the source had not come up to specifications as a neutron source, and that the Materials Testing Laboratory's X-ray of the capsule (which was a required testing procedure) had showed the outer capsule to have a hairline crack. Harwood stated the contractor, Westinghouse, had wanted the outer capsule replaced. However, when the bland statempted to do this they ruptured the inner capsule. He stated that had done the cutting and that had been watching the procedure, and that the cutting was done on a lathe. Harwood stated that a mechanical air sampler was operating at the time, and it showed only low levels of about  $10^{-13}$  or  $10^{-14}$  uc/ml on a Whatman filter paper. Harwood stated that other work had been done on the same lathe at least as late as January 11.

7. Harwood stated that the source was one of seven little reactor standardization sources with a neutron emission of 108 neutrons per second or approximately 400 curies Pu-238. (Harwood at that point did not realize, or did not want to admit, that an unauthorized smaller source was involved.) He stated they were all done for Westinghouse and the capsule was one of two types of sources built for Westinghouse. Harwood stated that the contamination from the incident had been tracked around and several other individuals were involved. He stated that spots of contamination were smeared and showed 50 to 70,000 cpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup>. Harwood stated that he was in the area on January 23 for a re-run of the air samples. He stated that the state and taken some nose wipes the night of the incident. Harwood indicated that capsules may have been cut open before (without contamination having occurred). He described the encapsulation procedure as consisting of sealing the matrix in an inner capsule which is then decontaminated. The inner capsule is then put into a storage container to be taken to the "outer facility" where the outer capsule is welded on. X-rays and leak testing are also done there. Harwood stated that there has been no other rupture of a capsule to his knowledge. He stated contamination was general throughout the facility, and that approximately 2 to 300 cpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup> had been found on the floor in the office area.

8. Harwood stated there had been no thought of a medical examination for the persons involved since there had not appeared to be that much of a problem. Harwood stated that the reason the lathe in the outer facility was used was because the lathe in the inside glove box was out of order. (At this point Harwood did not know the lathe used was the one in the machine shop, according to his later statement to the investigators.)

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## Interview with

opened two  $c_{-2}$  r capsules on previous occasions. He stated that, in addition stated that he is the to had also been in the immediate vicinity and had been contaminated when the capsule was ruptured. Stated, that he started cutting into the capsule between 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. He stated he had worn a comfo air mask and that an air sampler had been operating. He stated that there was a small amount of contamination on the inner capsule. When the outer capsule had been checked, a flaw had been found which consisted of a small, minute crack. He stated that he had set the capsule up in the lathe, and had cut all of the way through the outer capsule using a hacksaw with a three-foot extension on the handle so that he could stand behind a water tank during this operation. He stated that he noticed a change in the color of the filings coming from his operation. At about the same time, time, and that he was getting some alpha readings, and that they should all back off. He stated he had been surveyed by and had showered. He stated he took a nose smear with a "Q-tip", and had taken a bottle home for a urine sample. He stated that he had a fecal sample the following day. See estated that the air sampler was two or three feet away from their operation. Set the stated that he had not gone to a doctor nor had he been told to go to a doctor as a result of the incident. How were on Monday, January 22, he had been examined by a Dr. Raymond Whalley. who is his family physician. (Dr. Raymond Whalley, 6777 Hollywood Boulevard, telephone number 463-0966). Stated that he had gone for a routine yearly physical that day and had made the appointment for it approximately two weeks prior to that. He stated blood samples were taken and a routine physical was given him. He stated he did not tell Dr. Whalley of the incident of the preceding Thursday night. Stated that no nose smears had been taken of him Friday morning, but that a nose smear had been taken on January 23 which was negative.

## Interview with

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is the for the licensee. He was interviewed after he returned to the plant the afternoon of January 23 with the vacuum cleaner. Consistent that he, the second and second that he had been engaged in cleaner. Set that he, the set and the had been engaged the cutting operation. The set of had been called immediately after the incident, and had returned to the plant for decontamination procedures. stated that he had a Gelman air sampler working at the time of the incident, and that he later counted the filter from this air sampler which showed about  $1.9 \times 10^{-11}$  uc/ml. He stated that this was a late count, however, and this count was from memory as he had not made a written record of it. He stated he first realized something had gone wrong when was cutting into the capsule when he saw rust-colored filings dropping from it. When he saw this, he knew it was plutonium. He alerted the others and they "went to mask." He then notified Mr. Harwood by telephone. stated that he knew people were still in the building when the incident occurred. He stated Mr. Fallis had stuck his head in the door, but had told him to keep out, there was a contamination problem. (Mr. Fallis is the General Director, Chemical and Radioisotopes Division, ICN.) stated that he had found some contamination on the floor of the office, but the shop had been hit harder. He stated there was a blower in that shop. stated that the contaminated people had taken showers before returning to their homes. He stated he had found contamination which he remembered to be in the order of 20 to 30,000 cpm in the hair of , and himself. He stated the nose smears registered 500 to 1,000 cpm on a portable alpha counter. He gaid later smears were negative. He stated after the incident closed up the lathe area that night and made a survey of the he and front office area. They checked the office from top to bottom. They found a rug in the sales office with 2,000 to 3,000 cpm. They found 50,000 cpm in places in the shop area. They found the standing eight to nine feet back from the lathe walting to take thome. They found state that none of them had any protective clothing on, except for lab coats. was standing eight stated He stated they wore no masks. He stated that fecal and urine samples taken from himself and the thad not yet been sent in for analysis. A state that he had turned these over to his assistant, Chuck Mitchell, and he didn't stated know who Mitchell had gotten further samples from. Astated he is not checked the fecal samples with a portable alpha counter for a rough Astated he had estimate of contamination because his stomach was too upset for such a chore.

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11. It is stated he had been told the inner capsules were clean. He intimated that the one involved may not have been clean and the contamination occurred when the outer capsule was cut into without cutting into the inner capsule. It is stated he has played the incident down because of the possibility of panic. He stated that he did not know who might have alerted the AEC, but that it could have been Merv Pointer, the machinist who ordinarily worked on the lathe. It could have been Merv Pointer, the machinist who ordinarily worked on the lathe. It could have been Merv Pointer, the machinist who ordinarily worked on the lathe. It could have been Merv Pointer, the machinist who ordinarily worked on the lathe. It could have been Merv Pointer, the machinist who ordinarily worked on the lathe. It could have been Merv Pointer, the machinist who ordinarily worked on the lathe. It could have been Merv Pointer, the machinist who ordinarily worked on the lathe. It could have been Merv Pointer, the machinist who ordinarily worked on the lathe. It could have been Merv Pointer, the machinist who ordinarily worked on the lathe. It could have been Merv Pointer, the machinist who ordinarily worked on the lathe. It could have been Merv Pointer, the machinist who ordinarily worked on the lathe. It could have been Merv Pointer, the stated that Merv Pointer is afraid of radiation and, therefore, not fully understanding the situation, could have made the report to AEC, which is stated was not necessary since the situation was under control. He stated the other possibility is that the report was made by the Fire Department inspectors who had been in the office on Friday. Stated that it was important to keep people in the front office under control.

12. Description of the stated that he and the index had worked closely together on the capsule. He stated the lathe in the inner facility was mechanically gone, and that the cutting work had to be done outside the inner facility. He said that this particular capsule was a rework from the Westinghouse order, and a crack had appeared when it was helium leak tested. He stated the capsule had been brought to the outer facility for outer encapsulation. They had supposedly been checked for contamination and had been welded on Friday, the week before (January 12). The explained the Navy neutron sources had been nelium tested, but they were not required to leak test the little ones. He explained the little ones had been made up from one plutonium slug which was crushed to provide material for seven sources of about 24 curies each under another contract. He stated they were standard neutron capsules, similar to those produced under the Navy contract. He stated that the capsule which had been cut into was in the inner facility glove box in a glass jar with a lid on it.

13. It is stated that a nemosphere had been used on the job which had detected a neutron radiation of approximately 2 mrem/hr during the operation of cutting the capsule. It is stated that he had pulled the badges for and himself which were provided by Radiation Detection of Mountain View, but that he had not turned them in vet. He stated if did not have a badge and was standing in the back. It is stated that about 5 to 10 mrem was recorded on the neutron personnel dosimeters that he and if is wore, but that he had made no written record of this. It is that he to 15 inner capsules had been fabricated. Seven of them had been earmarked for Westinghouse. If then led the way to the machine shop area where the lathe was located. At this point, George Harwood contacted the investigators and stated he didn't know until then that and the investigators and stated he didn't know until then that and the license and application reveals that only the plutonium lab and "outer facility" are described and authorized as locations where work with plutonium can be conducted.)

14. Would be sent in on January 24 to U. S. Testing. He stated no urine or fecal had been received from the state.

#### Interview with

15. stated that he normally worked in the C-14 labs and had been present when the capsule was cut into only because he was to take home. He stated that he had been in the machine shop only a couple of minutes when health physics office. A stated he wore no mask or protective clothing and can't recall that an air sampler was present. made a survey of him back in the health physics office and had him take off all of his clothes. He stated he had a nose wipe before the shower. He did not know what the count was. He stated he had a film badge and a dosimeter in his pants pocket, but they were picked up with the clothing which he did not get back. He said he showered after removing his clothing, and was surveyed after the shower. He stated he took a urine sample bould home the night of the 18th, and combined the sample for 24 hours. He stated a man had been sent out to pick up the samples from him on January 24. He stated the fecal sample picked up on the 21th was from a volding of the 19th. stated that he had come to work the next day, January 19, and that he told Fallis he wanted to quit on January 19. He stated he had made this decision prior to the incident of the nucle of January IR. He stated the reasons were and had no bearing on the contamination incident. He stated that he had voluntarily quit, and this had been no action on the part of the licensee

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hecause of his having been involved in the incident. Stated that he did not think that they had a mask on at the time of the incident. He didn't think that they had lab coats on, and he could not see what they were cutting.

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#### Interview with

16. In the stated he is a technician and he was called back to work between approximately 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. the evening of January 18. He stated had called him and asked him to bring soap for decontamination. Istated he wore a comfo mask, a lab coat, shoe covers, a personnel' dosimeter, and a film badge. He stated they first had made surveys and then started cleaning up. He stated he was asked to fill a urine bottle on Monday, January 22, but not before, and that he had furnished a fecal sample on January 24. Istated that he had a nose blow sample, but no sputum sample was taken until that Monday, January 22. He stated that the source involved was on of seven regular plutonium slugs. He stated he didn't know where the incident occurred; he saw no shield and he knew nothing about the incident, except that it was one of the seven small slugs. I stated that he, and worked until approximately midnight de contaminating the place.

#### Interview with other employees

17. At this point in the investigation, Bill Bradley, the USN Sales Manager, contacted the investigator in Mr. Fallis' office to provide information on the sources prepared for Westinghouse. He stated they had been manufactured according to Westinghouse engineering drawing No. 911B786, of which he furnished a copy of a change order (Exhibit C) showing the configuration of the capsule. He provided for inspection a copy of the contract, Westinghouse Order No. 73-Y-377762, dated October 6, 1967, which specified that the seven sources were to be fabricated from a 24-gram pellet of Pu-238 metal supplied by Westinghouse. Except for the first two sheets of the contract (Exhibit B, above), the rest of the contract was a standard form, No. 73495K. Article No. 32 of this form covers Health and Safety requirements and states "All government agency regulations will apply." Bradley stated the failed source was No. SN-W424, as noted on the engineering change drawing. He produced a copy of the radiographic test report dated January 12, 1968, which reported "crack opposite welded end." (Exhibit D). Bradley stated the order did not specify the number of curies each source contained, but specified a neutron emission rate. Bradley stated the final assay for the failed source was recorded as 5.1 x 107 n/s emission rate. George Harwood, who was present then, performed the following calculations to show this emission rate was equivalent to 35.3 curies.

> 24 g \* Pu-238 in original pellet 16.2 \* c/g of Pu-238 5.63 x 10<sup>8</sup> n/s \* emission rate of total matrix 5.1 x 10<sup>7</sup> n/s \* emission rate of source 5.1 x 10<sup>7</sup> x 24 x 16.2 \* 35.3 curies plutonium in source 5.63 x 10<sup>8</sup>

18. was briefly reinterviewed on January 26 after he had been whole body counted and after his house had been checked for contamination. stated that he had taken two showers at the plant immediately after the incident on January 18. He stated he and the state of a surveyed each other and that he had taken off all his clothing and put it in a bag. He stated he had other clothing and shoes in a locker which he put on to wear home. other occasions he had successfully cut off the outer capsules of the larger (400 curie) sources which were about 12 inches long. He stated that had been done in the inner facility. He stated the cutting could not be done on the outer facility lathe since that lathe was set up for welding only and would automatically turn when something was put in the chuck. **Constant** stated the larger capsules had been cut open by using a pipe cutter placed on the end of the capsule which was placed on end in a paraffin block for shielding. was placed on end in a paraffin block for shielding. further explained this procedure later, saying that they used a long handle on the pipe cutter and crouched down to avoid exposure from the top of the source, and turned the pipe cutter by walking in a circle around the sour 'n the paraffin block.) On January 18, **Stated** he attempted to f. source which measured about 9/16 inch diameter, pe cutter on the smaller found that the cutter was too large for it to grip the source. He stated that he and then decided to use the chuck of the machine shop lathe as a vise to grip the source while they cut the end off with a hacknow. He stated he had used a body shield to protect him for this operation. He described it as a wooden frame filled with paraffin blocks which is on rollers and can be olled up to the work by the man behind if. . stated again that he had worn a paper coat, no gloves, no head cover, and no shoe covers. He stated again that he had worn a comfo mask. He stated his lung deposition had probably occurred when he inhaled as he was taking the mask off.

- 19. R. M. Haslett, the Technical Sales Director of the licensec and former Hot Lab Supervisor, was briefly interviewed on January 25 concerning the information furnished on the two orders by Bill Bradley (see paragraph 17, above). Haslett stated that while the Navy order had called for 12 pellets (which would total the 288-gram limitation of the license), the licensee had actually received more than this number over the period of the contract since some had been exchanged and sent back to Westinghouse. In toto, however, Haslett stated the licensee had received only 12 pellets except for the additional one, making 13, from which the seven smaller sources were fabricated. Haslett provided copies of the two orders, engineering drawing and test sheet, appearing as Exhibits A, B, C, and D of this report.
- 20. Merv Pointer, the machinist whose lathe had been used by the and the night of January 18 and who had been told by the report for work at Technical Associates the following morning, was interviewed at that company on January 25. Pointer stated that he had not reported to 801 Lake Street after the 18th and had not been able to get his tools out of the facility. He stated had informed him that they were contaminated. He stated the company had bought him a new toel box and would buy him a new set of tools if they could not adequately decontaminate the ones he left behind in the machine shop.

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#### Survey Records

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#### Decontamination Efforts

22. The licensee had effected some decontamination by the time of the investigators' arrival on January 23. According to an and Harwood, decontamination of the building began immediately after the incident on January 18 and continued through that night. This included morping and painting surfaces to hold down the remaining contamination. The licensee began using spray foam on vertical surfaces on Wednesday, January 24, with some success in one office room. Attempts at using this technique on the "bay" floor were unsuccessful since the contamination had worked down into the rough-finished concrete. A vacuum blaster was purchased by the licensee on February 5, and its use proved effective for decontamination of the concrete sidewalks and floors.

#### Independent Surveys

#### Extent of Contamination Spread

23. Independent surveys were made by AEC inspectors during the days of January 23, 24, 25, 26, 30, and February 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 on various areas to check the extent of contamination and progress of decontamination. Photographs of the survey operation and equipment involved were taken January 24-30. (Exhibit E). Plot plans and sketches showing results of these independent surveys are attached (Exhibit F, Annexes A, B, C, and D). The contamination found was particulate in nature, except in areas very close to the machine shop incident area where the contamination was general.

#### Surveys Outside of Building

- 24. Surveys were conducted outside of the building on the public sidewalks and the building roof by the AEC investigators. Surveys were made by the licensee in two U. S. Nuclear employees' homes with the investigators observing. James H. Heacock of the California State Division of Industrial Safety helped in conducting surveys of the building and sidewalks. Further surveys were made subsequently by the licensee on the sidewalk to check cleaning progress and in five additional employees' homes.
- 25. Particulate contamination was found outside the building (see Annex A). Specks of contamination reading as high as 30,000 cpm alpha were found near the entrance doors, tapering off to < 500 cpm near Victory Street and towards the Environmental Sciences building on Lake Street. Additional contamination was found in the U.S. Nuclear parking lot in the pathway from the side entrance door. Additional surveys in the streets and away from the building revealed no contamination. A large amount of contamination had been washed underneath the large roll-up door to the sidewalks on Lake Street from a decontamination operation inside. Decontamination of the public areas outside the U.S. Nuclear building. The AEC inspectors checked the decontaminated areas and resurveyed the entire sidewalk and found no contamination above AEC criteria for release.</p>

#### Surveys of the Building Roof

26. A survey of the roof revealed minor spots of contamination in the form of specks except on one exhaust vent which had general contamination on four sides of the wire screen around the outlet to 50,000 cpm alpha. A smear of the screen revealed 2,500 cpm alpha (see Annex C). The exhaust was operating during the incident and was open to the building via a 10-inch diameter hole in the side of the squirrel-cage blower housing located on top of the lower roof over labs 6 and 7 (see photograph. Exhibit E and Exhibit F, Annex A - "Waste Room"). The hole in the housing was located about 60 feet from the shop where the incident occurred and overlooks the shop walls (the shop has no ceiling). After the roof survey, the licensee was asked to secure all exhaust fans that did not have an absolute filtering system. This was done. Mr. Fallis obtained a wipe sample of the e thaust vent contamination to have it analyzed to determine whether the contaminant was plutonium or actually polonium, which the licensee had used years before. The result of that analysis (NSEC No. E8-11-78) indicates 50% Pu-238, 27% polonium, and 23% of unknown alpha emitters, as noted in the licensee's report (Exhibit G).

#### Building Surveys

- 27. The extent of the contamination was as shown in Annexes A, B, and D of Exhibit F. The contamination was mostly particulate, except on the inside of the "Outer Facility" and in the immediate area of the shop lathe. The highest speck density was found to be in the dock "bay" area (see Annex A). (No painting had been done in the bay. The contamination had been painted over in other places.) Several specks of contamination were still detectable on the painted surfaces of the floor and walls (see Annex B). The high roof rafters were not surveyed by the investigators because of inaccessibility.
- 28. The highest levels of contamination were found on the Outer Facility surfaces. stated this was caused when the source, which had been cut into, was brought from the machine shop to the Outer Facility to be put into the glass jar there on the night of January 18. (The glass jar was later placed in the remote control box of the inner facility.) Surveys prior to cleaning were not conducted inside the outer facility because of the potential hazard of spreading the contamination. The top of an "aquarium" (a glass water-filled enclosure used for neutron shielding) which sets in front of the facility (see Exhibits E and F) showed an indication of 400,000 cpm  $\alpha$  direct. After the facility was cleaned and painted, the contamination on the inside (vertical) surface of the aquarium revealed 800,000 cpm per 500 cm2 removable. Both the top and vertical sides of the aquarium were cleaned to < 100 cpm alpha, removable, by February 15. The health physics office (the only office located in the work area) was contaminated as shown in Exhibit F. The licensee was asked to move the office records and equipment (after decontaminating) to another office in the office area. This was done on January 25. On February 5, it was observed that the licensee had moved back into the health physics office where considerable contamination was still remaining, especially in the adjacent supply room (see Annex A).

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#### Air Sampling

- 29. According to the sample was operating during the capsule cutting operation at a distance of four feet away from the lathe. He said that the sample was removed and counted, revealing the concentration to be 9.34 x  $10^{-12}$  uc/cc of alpha (decay from 1.9 x  $10^{-11}$  uc/cc). No records were available to substantiate this and the sample was thrown away counting, according to the sample was thrown away counting.
- 30. Other samples were removed from labs 4, 6, and 7 (see Annex A) on Thursday, January 25, eight days after the incident, but which included the day of the incident. The eight-day (192 hr.) diluted samples showed 1.7 x 10-10 uc/cc alpha, 2 x 10-10 uc/cc alpha, and 5.9 x 10<sup>-10</sup> uc/cc alpha for labs 4, 6, and 7, respectively. Recounts of these samples after suitable time intervals showed no change. (The 40-hour average concentration limit for Pu-238 is 3 x 10<sup>-11</sup> uc/cc.) An air sample from the stack exhaust (which showed contamination on the outlet as mentioned above) showed 6 x 10<sup>-13</sup> uc/cc. The tygon hose sample line runs from the stack, across the lower lab roofs, and to the sample head in lab 22. The long hose may have prevented much of the airborne contamination to be picked up by the stack sampler. The stack samplet, which monitors the exhaust from lab 22, showed a concentration of 2.6 x 10<sup>-11</sup> uc/cc alpha.
- 31. Air samples taken during decontamination and other operations after the incident showed an average of  $10^{-13}$  uc/cc with some samples falling into the  $10^{-12}$  uc/cc range. The licensee began operating three air samplers after the incident outside of the lab areas, one near the Outer Facility area, one in the shop where the incident took place, and one in the bay area, in addition to the lab and stack samplers.

#### Surveys of Autos and Homes

- 32. On Wednesday, January 24, automobiles belonging to U. S. Nuclear employees were surveyed by the AEC inspectors. Two autos were found to be contaminated. The auto belonging to the surveyed by the floor mats and 2,000 dpm on the seat. The auto belonging to the seat were surveyed by the floor mats and 2,000 dpm on the seat. The auto belonging to the seat showed 500 dpm on the floor mat. No contamination was found in other autos.
- 33. On Thursday, January 25, the licensee surveyed the home at formula the presence of the AEC inspector. No contamination was found on any surfaces inside the home or on the walkway outside. However, one pair of trousers belonging to the walkway which were hanging in the closet and which had been worn on Monday, January 22 for decontamination work at U. S. Nuclear prior to the AEC visit, revealed 8,000 dpm general on the front of the trousers. The trousers were placed in a plastic bag and taken back to U. S. Nuclear.
- 34. On the night of Thursday, January 25, the second part of the AEC is investigators. Two specks reading 2,500 dpm and 1,100 dpm were found on the rug at the base of the sofa in the living room. In addition, one speck of 500 dpm was found on the back of the sofa. The specks were removed with masking tape. A bath towel with general contamination of 1,100 dpm was removed from a bathroom towel rack, placed in a plastic bag, and taken back to U. S. Nuclear by Mr. Fallis. No other contamination was found in the back of the sofa.
- 35. On the same day (January 25), it was suggested to Mr. Fallis by the inspectors that the licensee survey the homes of the same done on Monday, January 29, by the licensee. The licensee reported that one speck of contamination was found on the speck of contamination was found on the speck of mr. Fallis, no other contamination was found in either of the two homes, and on Monday, February 19, the licensee reported that five additional homes were surveyed with no contamination found.

-11-

EXA

EXG

#### Bioassay

- 36. According to the three employees associated with the incident and others on the decontamination crews submitted urine samples on January 18, 1968, after the incident. The samples were not sent in until Thursday, January 25, to U. S. Testing Company, Richland, Washington. Some fecal samples from the bound of were also submitted. The licensee was asked to continue with urine and fecal samples. The AEC medical advisor, Dr. K. McCormack, advised U. S. Nuclear that the four employees associated with the incident should provide "complete voiding" samples. This was done until February 9 when, except for the fuel had been advised by the AEC consultant, Dr. McCormack, that as of that date samples were no longer necessary on the fuel of and beyond the usual periodic samples; but that continued studies and complete voiding were necessary on the fuel of the fuel studies and complete voiding were necessary on the fuel for the fuel studies and
- 37. On Wednesday, January 24. Swere sent to Battelle Northwest Laboratories for whole body counting at the request of the AEC investigators. Final results were reported on Friday, January 26. The whole body count of the showed that he had 150 to 200 manocuries of Pu-238 in his lungs (maximum allowable by ICRP Committee II report is 16 manocuries) or 10 to 14 lung burdens. A count of the showed that he had < 10 manocuries (10 is minimum detectable) or as high as 20 manocuries since the Cs-134 and Co-60 components in his lungs may have masked out some of the plutonium. The counts for the sent for whole body counting on January 29. The counts for the sent for whole sent for whole some of the plutonium.</p>
- 38. On February 5, Control of the second second second second showed 170-225 manocuries, which was higher than the first count. The Battelle people said that the plutonium had worked deeper into the lungs, making it closer to the detectors, so that a higher reading would be obtained; they said it really meant that there was no change.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Fallis said that counts of the second se
- 39. Urine sample results (described as preliminary and incomplete) were available for samples submitted prior to the whole body count. Sample revealed 1.07 dpm plutonium per 100 ml (corresponding to the 150-200 manocuries in the lung by whole body counting) and sample revealed 0.61 dpm per 100 ml, corresponding to 10-20 manocuries in the lung from whole body counting results.

#### Environmental Sampling

40. The licensee was asked by the AEC inspectors to propose a plan for taking environmental samples. On Friday, January 26, Dr. Darnell of Environmental Sciences (a U. S. Nuclear subsidiary) said that they had found out that, at the time of the incident, the wind was blowing from the northeast at five knots. He said that they had taken seven vegetation samples and one soil sample in the southwest windrow and sent the samples back to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for analysis. Results of the soil and vegetation analyses showed no significant contamination (Exhibit G). The inspector called Jules Zarchin, California State Bureau of Radiological Health, regarding environmental air samplers which had been operating during the incident. He said that one, located two miles west of the U. S. Nuclear plant on Beverly Boulevard, Hollywood, showed 0.03 pc/l, 0.01 pc/l, and 0.01 pc/l for the days January 17, 18, and 19, respectively, and further said that these were statistically insignificant. Also, the Atomics International environmental air sampler at Santa Susana, 20 miles west of U. S. Nuclear, showed no indication during the same period.

#### Personnel Dosimetry

41. The film badges of the employees involved in the incident were removed but not sent in for analysis until Thursday, January 25. Results were received on February 19, 1968 by the AEC and the report from the vendor (Radiation Detection Company, Mountain View, California) inspected on February 21, 1968. The badge showed 100 mrcm neutron. A copy of this report is attached (Exhibit H). As required by 10 CFR 20.405(h), notices of exposure were sent by the licensee to the employees involved in the incident and the incident and the report of the track of the report of the track of the

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#### Medical Evaluations

42. At the request of the Director, Region V, Dr. Kenneth R. McCormack, Chief of the Nuclear Medicine Section, Mount Zion Hosrital, San Francisco, acted as medical consultant in the case. Dr. McCorm. A was present at the licensee's facility on January 24 and on January 25 conferred with the licensee's physician, Dr. William J. Oneal of the Los Angeles Tumor Institute, who is treating the exposed individuals. Dr. McCormack has furnished a preliminary report to the AEC (Exhibit J), and furnished written advice to Dr. Oneal (Exhibit K).

#### Publicity

43. Mr. Rodney S. Southwick, Assistant to the Manager for Public Information, SAN, was at the facility on January 24 and 25, and arranged with J. C. Brantley, ICN Vice President, for the preparation of a news release on the incident. The release was made to the Burbank Daily Review and the Glendale Press of on January 26, 1968. One article appeared in the Burbank Daily Review on January 26, 1968 (Exhibit L).

#### Discussions with Management

- 44. Throughout the investigation and subsequent the reto, there were and have been discussions with licensee's management. In the first phase of the investigation, these persons were J. C. Brantley, Vice President, International Chemical and Nuclear Corporation, and Richard M. Fallis, General Director, Chemical and Radioisotopes Division, ICN. On January 24, Mr. Fallis was first informed of the requirement to report the incident which, as evident at the time the incident occurred, should have been done at most within 24 hours. He was told he should submit an immediate report to AEC stating his plans to make a competent evaluation of the contamination to the facility and exposure to personnel, and that he should stop operations at the facility until it was decontaminated and surveys confirming safe limits had been performed by AEC. Fallis stated he concurred and subsequently submitted a report by telegram dated January 24. A responding telegram from AEC Compliance Division of the same date confirmed salient points omitted from the licensee's telegram (Exhibit M). In subsequent discussions during the decontamination phase of the AEC operations at the facility, an inventory of plutonium material on hand was obtained from the licensee (Exhibit N). It lists plutonium metal received in excess to the 12 pellets for which authorization was originally applied for, and it indicates sources have been or were intended to be fabricated for three customers other than Westinghouse. This information reinforces that found during the investigation as to the use of material not authorized by the licensee.
- 45. Mr. James Heacock, State Division of Industrial Safety, also held a discussion on January 26 with Messrs. Brantley and Fallis at which the AEC investigators were present upon request of Mr. Heacock. Mr. Heacock advised Brantley and Fallis that the California State licensed operations at the facility would have to be terminated until further notice because of the general contamination. Heacock stated the licensee could do this voluntarily but, if not, a "cease and desist" order would be issued. The licensee stated it would cease operations until decontamination was completed. This was confirmed by State letter of January 26, 1968 (Exhibit O).
- 46. At the conclusion of the investigation on the afternoon of January 30, 1968, a discussion of the results of the investigation was held in the office of Mr. Milan Panic, President, International Chemical and Nuclear Corporation, with Mr. Panic present, as well as Messrs. Fallis, Harwood, Heacock, Dr. R. C. Koch, assistant to Mr. Panic, and the two AEC investigators. Mr. Panic was informed of the items of noncompliance as determined from the investigation. After considerable discussion on each point, Mr. Panic stated that he recognized their applicability and that corrective action had been or would be taken. Subsequent to the investigation, upon review of the licensee's application letter of March 22, 1967, the fact that the licensee's administrative procedures furnished with that letter had not been followed, at least in respect to isotope committee review and the specific responsibilities of the corporate RSO (George Harwood), was noted and the citation for procedure was added to the violations of license committions. Mr. Fallis was informed of this item in a subsequent telephone call.

Attachmunter

## INDEX OF EXHIBITS

- A PURCHASE ORDER FOR DISOURCES FOR THE NAVY
- B PURCHASE ORDER FOR 7 SMALLER SOURCES
- C SKETCH OF SMALL SOURCE
- D RADIOGRAPHIC TEST REPORT
- E PHOTOGRAPHS
- F PLOT PLAN OF CONTAMINATION (Annexes A, B, C, and D)
- G ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS
- H FILM BADGE REPORT
- I WHOLE BODY COUNTS
- I MEDICAL REPORT
- K MEDICAL ADVICE TO LICENSEE PHYSICIAN
- L NEWS STORY
- M LICENSEE'S REPORT
- N PLUTONIUM INVENTORY
- O STATE LETTER TO LICENSEE



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Front of U. S. Nuclear facility, \* 801 N. Lake Street. James Heacock, State Inspector, using a PAC in foreground. U. S. Nuclear personnel decontaminating atdewalk in background.



a U. S. Nuclear employee, at work decontaminating sidewalk in front of loading dock. Vacuum cleaner in foreground.

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Shot through a partition in the finner facility". Partition scen through window is the front of coll where the exhaust stack is located.



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This shot shows the stack which effectively exhausted the Puparticulate from the machine shop area. Notice the open hole in the side of the squirrel cage blower.

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Shot through door of machine shop showing the lathe used to hold the source capsule, wrapped in plastic sheeting. Notice the two heaterblowers overhead.



Shot through "aquarium" front of the "outer Pu" facility showing the lathe used to weld on the outer capsules. Four of the seven small (~ 35 Ci) double encapsulated sources for the Westinghouse order are in the glass jar at left center. Two are behind it.



Shot through the glass front of remote control box in inner facility. The seventh Westinghouse encapsulated source, which was cut into, is in the jar being held up by the tongs.

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TOP VIEW OUTER FACILITY AFTER CLEANING INSIDE, 4m x1000 (SURVEY HINDE FUB 9, 1965)

(ANNEX D) EXHIBIT F (+)

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EXHIBIT G

## Nuclear Science Division

A Division of International Chemical & Nuclear Corporation P.O. Box 10901 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15236 Tel: 412: 462-4000 XXXXXXX

February 16, 1968

TECEI"" FEB 19 1968

Mr. George Harwood U. S. Nuclear Corporation 801 North Lake Street Burbank, California 91503

Dear Mr. Harwood:

The following are the results on the environmental samples submitted to Nuclear Science for analysis by U. S. Nuclear:

### Vegetation Samples

NSEC No.	Designation	Gross Alpha µµc/g Ash,	Gross Beta µµc/g Ash
F8-11-70	А	0.0 ± 2.6	88 ± 6
-71	В	0.0 ± 3.6	39 ± 6
-73	D	0.0 ± 3.6	$128 \pm 9$
-7-	E	$4.5 \pm 4.5$	110 ± 8
-75	F	$0.0 \pm 3.6$	72 ± 6
-76	G.	10.8 ± 5.4	204 ± 10
-77	H.	2.7 ± 4.5	$126 \pm 8$
		Soil Sample	
NSEC No.	Designation	Gross Alpha uuc/g	Gross Beta µµc/g
E8-11-72	С	$3.3 \pm 0.8$	$6.9 \pm 0.6$

The smear sample (NSEC # E8-11-78) dated 1-26-68 contained 280 dpm total alpha. We ran an alpha spectrum on the sample with the following results:

50% of total - Pu-238

27% of total - Po-210 (this figure could include small amount of Pu-238) 23% of total - unidentifiable due to energy degradation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

1. Luini

Arnold S. Levine Supervisor of Analytical Services

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AMARX E

EXHIBIT H

Fortenting Detroting C.

385 LC AVENUE, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA 94042. Phone (415) 967-2837

## DOSIMETRY REPORT

MR. DICK COLLINS U. S. NUCLEAR CORP. SO1 N. LAKE STREET BURBANK, CALIFORNIA 91502

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2:30 FM 2-15-6	58 K	2									
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Following are the results of the whole body counts taken on 1/25/68 and 2/5/68.

Mario	Date	Isotone	Location	Amount	SMP B SM
	1-25-68 1-25-68 1-25-68	Pu Co-60 Cs-137	Lung Area Whole Body Whole Body	150 to 200 nČi 160 nCi 238 nCi	940 to 1250 1.6 <1
(Re-count)	2-05-63 2-05-63 2-05-68	Pu Co-60 Cs-137	Lung Area Whole Body Whole Body	170 to 230 nCi 72 nCi 210 nCi	1000 to 1435

Detection Limit is 10 nCi \*\* Maximum permissible burden for location listed

This report is furnished to you under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Commission regulations entitled "Standards for Protection Against Radiation" (10 CFR Part 20). You should preserve this report for future reference.

Vory truly yours,

U. S. NUCLEAR CORPORATION

Goorgo E. Harwood General Manager

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EXHIBIT I



Following are the results of the whole body counts taken on 1-29-68.

Natio	Date	Isotone	Location	Amount	emprair
	1-29-68	.Pu Cs-137	Lung Area Whole Body	,10* to 20 nCi . 581 nCi	62 to 125

Detection Limit is 10 nCi \*\* Maginum permissible burden for location listed

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Very truly yours,

U. S. NUCLEAR CORPORATION

George E. Harwood General Managor

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Following are the results of the whole body counts taken on 1/25/68.

NAMO	Date	Isotone	Location	Amount	SUDB##
t'en s	1-25-68	Pu Co=60	Lung Aren Whole Body	10 nCi* 58 nCi	62
	1-25-68	Cs-137	Whole Body	248 nCi	1

Detection Limit is 10 nCi \*\* Maximum permissible burden for location listed

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Very truly yours,

U. S. NUCLEAR CORPORATION

George E. Harwood General Manager

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XHIBIT I'S)



Following are the results of the whole body counts taken on 1/29/68.

Namo	Date	Isotope	Location	Amount	\$MPB **
	1-29-68	Pu Cs-137	Lung Area Whole Body	10 nCi* 18 nCi	< 62 1

Detection Limit is 10 nCi \*\* Maximum permissible burden for location listed

This report is furnished to you under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Commission regulations entitled "Standards for Protection Against Madiation" (10 CFR Part 20). You should preserve this report for future reference.

Very truly yours,

U. S. NUCLEAR CORPORATION

George E. Harwood

General Managor

GEH:dk

