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APR 20 1960

Mr. James T. Ramey
Executive Director
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States

Dear Mr. Ramey:

This will supplement information furnished the JCAS staff by telephone on April 4, 1960 with regard to a radiation incident associated with the Westinghouse Testing Reactor at Salts Mills, Pennsylvania.

Further information indicates that the fuel element may have melted into two pieces; the upper piece has been removed from the reactor. There has been no evidence of overexposure of personnel or of contamination of the environment, other than the initial release of gaseous activity. It is now believed that substantial loss of time and money will result from this incident.

We have initiated a full investigation of the matter. We will keep the Committee informed of any significant developments and will furnish a letter of details when the investigation is completed.

There is enclosed a copy of a press release prepared by the licensee with respect to this incident.

Sincerely yours,

S/DA. Jink (AGM)

cc: w/ enclosure

Chairman

General Manager M. Salisbury, IS

Congr. Liaison (2) J. Clarke, NY

AGMR&S, Mr. Finan F. K. Pittman, RD

H. L. Price, L&R

General Manager

C. Eason, CGC

Enclosure:

Copy Press Release, 4/5/60

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Congr. Lia. AGM

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PRESS RELEASE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER 4/5/60

NUCLEAR REACTOR HAS FUEL LEAK

Waltz Mill, Pa., April 4 (UPI). --

Westinghouse Electric Corp. said Monday a fuel element rupture in its nuclear testing reactor here released radioactive material into the reactor's primary piping system.

"There is no danger and no one has been injured," Manager E. T. Morris, Jr., said.

He said an increase in fission products in the primary system was believed responsible for the rupture that occurred at 8:40 o'clock Sunday night.

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