

JUL 25 1964

Mr. John F. Conroy
Executive Director
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States

Dear Mr. Conroy:

This letter is to confirm information I provided to you and your staff by telephone last night and this morning concerning the criticality accident which occurred at approximately 6:00 P. M., Friday, July 24 at the United Nuclear Corporation fuel recovery plant at Wood River Junction, Rhode Island.

The information presently available, which is preliminary, indicates that the criticality accident occurred when an employee poured a solution containing enriched uranium from one container into another. This employee, who was the only one in the room at the time, was taken to Rhode Island Hospital at Providence. It appears that he received massive exposure to radiation. His condition is critical. AUM is providing expert medical consultation at the hospital.

Three other employees who were in the building at the time of the accident received minor contamination, apparently while assisting in the evacuation of the other employee to the hospital. The three were examined at the hospital, decontaminated and released.

As you were advised by Mr. O'Neill this morning, the licensee issued a public announcement Friday night after the accident. A copy of the announcement is enclosed.

The information we are receiving continues to indicate that there is no public hazard.

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We have had inspectors at the site since early Saturday morning. Our investigation is continuing. We shall continue to keep you informed as additional significant information becomes available. Upon the conclusion of our investigation, which may not be completed for some time, a report of our findings will be issued.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Harold L. Price
Harold L. Price
Director of Regulation

ATTACHMENT

Press Release - United Nuclear

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