

10/1/64

OCT 1 1964

Dr. Herbert J. Kouts

Ex. 6

Dear Dr. Kouts:

This will confirm for the record that I furnished you a copy of each of the following memoranda on September 29, 1964:

1. Memorandum from Lawrence D. Low, Director, Division of Compliance, to Division of Compliance Files, dated September 29, 1964, subject "UNITED NUCLEAR CORPORATION, WOOD RIVER JUNCTION, RHODE ISLAND, TYPE A INCIDENT, CRITICALITY, JULY 24, 1964"
2. Memorandum from Richard B. Chitwood, Inspection Specialist (Criticality), Division of Compliance, to Lawrence D. Low, dated September 29, 1964, subject "UNITED NUCLEAR CORPORATION, WOOD RIVER JUNCTION, RHODE ISLAND - TYPE A INCIDENT, CRITICALITY, JULY 24, 1964"

The memoranda to the files recorded five questions you gave me in regard to the Compliance investigation of the United Nuclear Corporation accident. The Chitwood to Low memorandum furnished answers to those questions.

Very truly yours,

Information in this record was deleted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, exemptions 6  
FOIA-2004-0234

Lawrence D. Low, Director  
Division of Compliance

cc: Dr. Wayne C. Bills  
Dr. Richard L. Doan  
Dr. Marvin M. Mann  
Dr. Hugh C. Paxton  
Dr. Warren E. Winsche

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	10-1-64				

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Division of Compliance Files

DATE: September 29, 1964

FROM : Lawrence D. Low, Director  
Division of Compliance

SUBJECT: UNITED NUCLEAR CORPORATION, WOOD RIVER JUNCTION, RHODE ISLAND  
TYPE A INCIDENT, CRITICALITY, JULY 24, 1964

This morning the Chairman of the Technical Review Committee asked me the following questions:

- A. With respect to Appendix C of Volume 3, "Supplemental Report with Exhibits" (dated 9-16-64), of CO, Region I, report of investigation:
1. The Committee noted with respect to sample numbers (starting on page 2 of the exhibit) that several sample numbers were not included. The question is - Is Appendix C an extract from the log or is it a verbatim report of the log? If the latter, the question is "What about the missing numbers?"
  2. Who took the samples and who made the analyses?
  3. The Committee noted that the date "July 23, 1964" was not included in the log. Was this date included in the original log? The Committee noted the result "450 g/l" which would appear to have been made on July 22, 1964, according to Appendix C; whereas the high concentrated material was not generated in the plant until July 23, 1964.
- B. Were any Wood River Junction questions referred to Swallow after United Nuclear received their license for operations?

I informed Dr. Kouts we would furnish the answers to these questions promptly.

LDL:ouu

9/29/64

Lawrence B. Low, Director  
Division of Compliance

Richard B. Chitwood, Inspection Specialist (Criticality)  
Division of Compliance

UNITED NUCLEAR CORPORATION, WOOD RIVER JUNCTION, RHODE ISLAND -  
TYPE A INCIDENT, CRITICALITY, JULY 24, 1964

This is in reply to the questions asked by the Technical Review Committee chairman, Dr. Kouts, and discussed in your memo to The Files, dated September 29, 1964, same subject as above. The replies listed below are in the same order as the questions were presented in your memo.

- A. With respect to Appendix C of Volume 3, "Supplemental Report with Exhibits" (dated 9-16-64) of CO, Region I, report of investigation --

Topic 1a - Appendix C is a verbatim report of the analytical log used at the subject facility.

Topic 1b - The missing analytical numbers represent samples which were not analyzed because the samples were considered nonrepresentative.

2. The answer to the questions concerning who took the samples and who made the analyses, is as follows:

The plant operating personnel took the samples. The analytical chemist made all analyses except in a few cases not discernable by the record. The few exceptions were when supervisors occasionally did the analyses in order to obtain information quickly.

3. The date "July 23, 1964" is apparently an error of omission since all entries are as shown on the log for July 22, 1964. Other errors of this nature have been noted by the inspectors (Crocker and Browne) and, in particular, note should be made of Attachment 12 of Division of Compliance report, Volume 1, which relates to the last entry of July 22, 1964, as shown on Exhibit C, Volume 3.

(continued)

- B. The question as to whether any problems or questions were referred to Swallow after UAC received its license for operation is answered as follows:

Holthaus made a number of written requests to Swallow for a nuclear safety review of proposed equipment changes. These were observed by an inspector (W. G. Browne) in the correspondence file of Holthaus. No copies of replies were noted by the inspector. The statement of interview with Swallow indicates that an oral answer was given in at least one instance.