

EH

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Eber R. Price, Assistant Director
Division of Licensing and Regulation

DATE: APR 19 1963

FROM : Leo Dubinski, Assistant Director for Materials
Division of Compliance

SUBJECT: MARTIN-MARIETTA CORPORATION, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND - LICENSE
NO. SNM-53 - TYPE B INCIDENT (EXPLOSION)

CO:EGO

On March 19, 1963, we transmitted to LR a copy of a TWX, dated March 18, 1963, as received from Region I, Division of Compliance. This communication related that an explosion involving highly enriched uranium oxide powder had occurred at the licensee's facility on March 17, 1963.

Attached is a copy of an investigation report, dated April 16, 1963, from Region I, with regard to this incident. The report sets forth the details in connection with the explosion and shows this occurrence probably resulted from a build-up of acetylene gas in the system used to spheroidize highly enriched uranium oxide powder. There were no injuries to personnel, although one employee was contaminated, and clean-up action was accomplished in this respect. There was contamination of the immediate area and this was decontaminated. Damage is estimated to range from \$4,000.00 to \$7,000.00.

Region I has classified this as a Type B incident, but points out that it could be interpreted as a Type A incident. The extended shutdown of the equipment involved more than seven days, due to need for certain new parts unrelated to radioactive materials, and we concur in the category of Type B. Please note that the entire report is classed as "Company Confidential".

For your information.

Attachment:

Cpy report fm CO:I to Dubinski
dtd 4/16/63

cc: R. W. Kirkman, CO:I, w/o att
H. H. Shapar, OGC, w/att



Al109