

On February 18, 1974 in a telephone call a licensee management representative reported that complete whole body counts have been done on the five employees for whom home surveys were conducted. He stated that the preliminary report from MIT based on 20 minute counts showed no abnormal activity in the individuals counted. He went on to report that his radiation consultant had been to the plant twice during the week and that a ventilation consultant had been to the plant once and that extensive phone consultation had been conducted with both of them. He reported that the decontamination operations were continuing and that as of the time of his telephone call, surveys conducted with _____ window portable GM counter revealed no detectable contamination up to the entrance to the work area. He stated that there then existed what he referred to as a buffer zone between the entrance to the work area and the platform on which the melting is accomplished. He reported that in this buffer zone instrument readings never exceeded 0.4 mr per hour as opposed to a background of 0.2 mr per hour.

The management representative then requested approval to begin melting operations again and outlined a plan under which the procedure would be undertaken. He said that every step of the operation would be monitored in the following manner. Initially contamination and smear surveys would be made of the work area. During the operation breathing zone air samples would be taken and upon completion of each step of the operation a smear and instrument survey would be done to

A171

determine whether contamination spread was taking place. In the event that it was, decontamination would be undertaken as necessary. He reported that the first melt would be typical of their smallest batch, consisting of a 96 pound charge which produces two of the smallest shields weighing 30 pounds each with the remaining material recaptured as waste. The management representative agreed to notify RO:I in the event of any unusual occurrence during the operations. He stated that rough checks of smears and air samples would be made with the _____ window GM detector as a screening process and that the samples then would be sent immediately to their consultant for processing and stated that he expected results back within a couple of days. If the first melt went well he stated he then planned to go on to a larger melt using the same steps as previously outlined and in the event that this permitted them to fully delineate and control their contamination problems he indicated that they intended to resume normal operations.

Based on the information provided in this phone call RO:I gave its approval to resume melting operations.