TWX NEP 4647 [P R I O R I T Y] 62 JULY 24 1730

FM R H ENGELKEN REACTOR INSPECTOR SUPERVISORY REGION V DIV OF COMPLIANCE

USAEC BERKELEY CALIF

TO R L TOMAIL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR REACTORS DIV OF COMPLIANCE

USAEC GERMANTOWN MD

ON JULY 23 1962 GENERAL ELECTRIC GAVE PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION TO R T DODDS, REGION V, DIV OF COMPLIANCE, OF A STUCK CONTROL ROD IN THE GETR FOLLOWING A SCRAM AT 6.50 A M ON JULY 21 1962. THE STUCK ROD WAS DETECTED WHEN THE ROD SEAT LIGHT FAILED TO INDICATE THAT THE ROD HAD BEEN SEATED. ATTEMPTS TO SEAT THE ROD WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. THE REACTOR WAS SHUTDOWN. THE GUIDE TUBE WITH CONTROL ROD STILL INSIDE WAS REMOVED. THE DRIVE ASSEMBLY WAS THEN REMOVED TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANY FOREIGN MATTER IN THE SHOCK RECEIVER SECTION. NONE WAS DISCOVERED. THE DRIVE ASSEMBLY WAS CLEANED AND RE-INSTALLED IN THE REACTOR. THE CONTROL ROD STILL DID NOT SEAT ITSELF. AT THIS TIME, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THE CONTROL ROD WAS STUCK INSIDE THE GUIDE TUBE. THE STUCK ROD AND GUIDE TUBE WERE AGAIN REMOVED.. AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO INSTALL A SPARE GUIDE TUBE AND CONTROL ROD IN THE REACTOR. A BROKEN BERYLLIUM CORE REFLECTOR FILLER PIECE WAS DISCOVERED ADJACENT TO THE REMOVED CONTROL ROD POSITION. THIS WAS REMOVED AND A NEW FILLER PIECE INSERTED. THE SPARE GUIDE TUBE AND CONTROL ROD WERE THEN SUCCESSFULLY INSTALLED AND TESTED. THE BROKEN FILLER PIECE WAS NOT CONSIDERED TO HAVE CAUSED THE CONTROL ROD STICKING, BUT WAS ATTRIBUTED TO DAMAGE INCURRED AS A RESULT OF HANDLING DURING THE GUIDE TUBE REMOVEAL AND INSTALLATION.

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UP TO THE TIME OF THE NOTIFICATION, ATTEMPTS TO REMOVE THE FUEL AND SHOCK SECTIONS FROM THE GUIDE HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. THE POISON SECTION OF THE CONTROLROD WAS REMOVED WITHOUT EXPERIENCING ANY DIFFICULTY.

G E INFORMED US THAT THE REACTOR HAS BEEN KEPT SHUTDOWN AND WILL NOT BE STARTED UP UNTIL THEY CAN FREE THE FUEL AND SHOCK SECTIONS AND DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF THE STUCK ROD. AS SOON AS THEY HAVE DETERMINED THE ROD STUCK, IT IS THEIR INTENTION TO NOTIFY D L AND R OF THIS OCCURRENCE. IT IS OUR OPINION AND G E CONCURS THAT THIS OCCURRENCE IS REPORTABLE AS A POSSIBLE UNSAFE CONDITION. THE NOTIFICATION TO REGION V, DIV OF COMPLIANCE BY G E WAS PRELIMINARY IN NATURE BUT WAS DONE TO APPRAISE US OF THE SITUATION AS IT EXISTS. WE WILL BE NOTIFIED BY G E PRIOR TO REACTOR STARTUP. AT THAT TIME, WE SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER AN IMMEDIATE FOLLOWUP INSPECTION WILL BE MADE. IN ANY EVENT, THE MATTER WILL RECEIVE OUR FURTHER ATTENTION. REF CO-V-RUF-4647

END OF MESSAGE

24/1830Z ANO MM

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