

TESTIMONY

BEFORE

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE
ACCIDENT AT THREE MILE ISLAND

BY
ROBERT C. ARNOLD
VICE PRESIDENT-GENERATION
GPU SERVICE CORPORATION

May 30, 1979

679 282

✓

7907180041

My name is Robert C. Arnold and I am a Vice President of the GPU Service Corporation, a subsidiary of the General Public Utilities Corporation. I am in charge of the Generation Division of the Service Corporation and in this position I am responsible for the design and construction of new generating facilities for the GPU System. The Generation Division is also involved with existing generating facilities through:

1. Design and construction of major modifications,
2. Basic engineering support for plant operations and maintenance as agreed to between my counterparts in the operating companies and myself,
3. Lead responsibility for certain highly specialized disciplines such as in-core nuclear fuel management and process control computers,
4. Development of system wide policies pertaining to operations and maintenance, and
5. Review of budgets and commitments of funds.

Although my normal work location is 1 Bloomfield Avenue, Mountain Lakes, New Jersey, I am presently located at the Three Mile Island site where I am responsible for the overall management of all on-site and near-site technical capabilities and resources working in support of the TMI 2 recovery effort. Exhibit 1 is a chart which describes the organization that was formally established on Wednesday, April 4th by the President of GPU to manage the TMI 2 recovery.

The Recovery Organization consists of an integration of GPU personnel with senior, experienced people from other utilities and nuclear industry organizations across the country. It has focused on the following priorities:

1. Maintaining the current plant operations in the safest conditions,
2. Containing the release of radioactivity to minimize exposure to the public and on-site personnel.

3. Making a reliable safe transition to a benign and reliable long-term cooling mode for the plant, and
4. Reinforcing the capability of the plant to assure long-term cooling.

The major near-term objectives of the Recovery Organization were established as follows:

1. Maintain the unit in a stable condition,
2. Control and manage the volumes of existing radioactivity,
3. Develop an overall waste management plan for liquid, gas, and solids,
4. Develop a strategy to reach cold shutdown safely and expeditiously,
5. Modify the necessary procedures, facilities, and equipment to accomplish the above, and
6. Establish the plan for accomplishing a transition into the organization necessary to proceed with the longer term recovery efforts.

As shown in Exhibit 1, the organization was divided into the following major groups:

- Technical Support
- Met-Ed Plant Operations
- Waste Management
- Plant Modifications
- Task Management/Schedule
- Industry Advisory
- Administrative & Logistics
- Public & Government Affairs

The Technical Support Group has provided engineering criteria and support, technical planning and analysis, procedure support, technical support to the control room, support to licensing requirements, and data reduction and management.

The Plant Operations Group has consisted of the Met-Ed TMI Plant Staff with substantial augmentation from other organizations. The group has been responsible for:

1. Performing all plant operations and maintenance activities required,
2. Limiting personnel exposure,
3. Stopping off-site uncontrolled releases,
4. Returning the plant to a benign status, and
5. Ensuring the plant's ability to respond to any further emergencies.

The Waste Management Group was established to safely and effectively manage the quantities of radioactive gases, liquids and solids during the initial phases of the recovery operation. They have been responsible for the development and implementation of short-term plans to manage and process contaminated gases, liquids and solids, identification of the status of Auxiliary Building systems, establishment of processing priorities that are based on plant needs and decontamination of the Auxiliary Building.

The Plant Modification Group has provided the engineering, design, materials and construction necessary to complete the plant modifications to equipment and structures.

The Task Management/Scheduling Group was formed to coordinate and monitor the overall tasks and priorities, plans, schedules and work progress of all groups. They have been aware of information that the groups required to perform their tasks and assisted them in obtaining the required information.

The Industry Advisory Group was established as a "think tank" to function in parallel with all ongoing activities. The group was not intended to be part of the implementation structure. The group on its own initiative looked into potential problems of any kind, maintained a current awareness of the perceived status of the core, and provided assessments based on experience and judgment as opposed to detailed engineering review and calculations. This group was disbanded, subject to being reconvened, on May 6th.

679 285

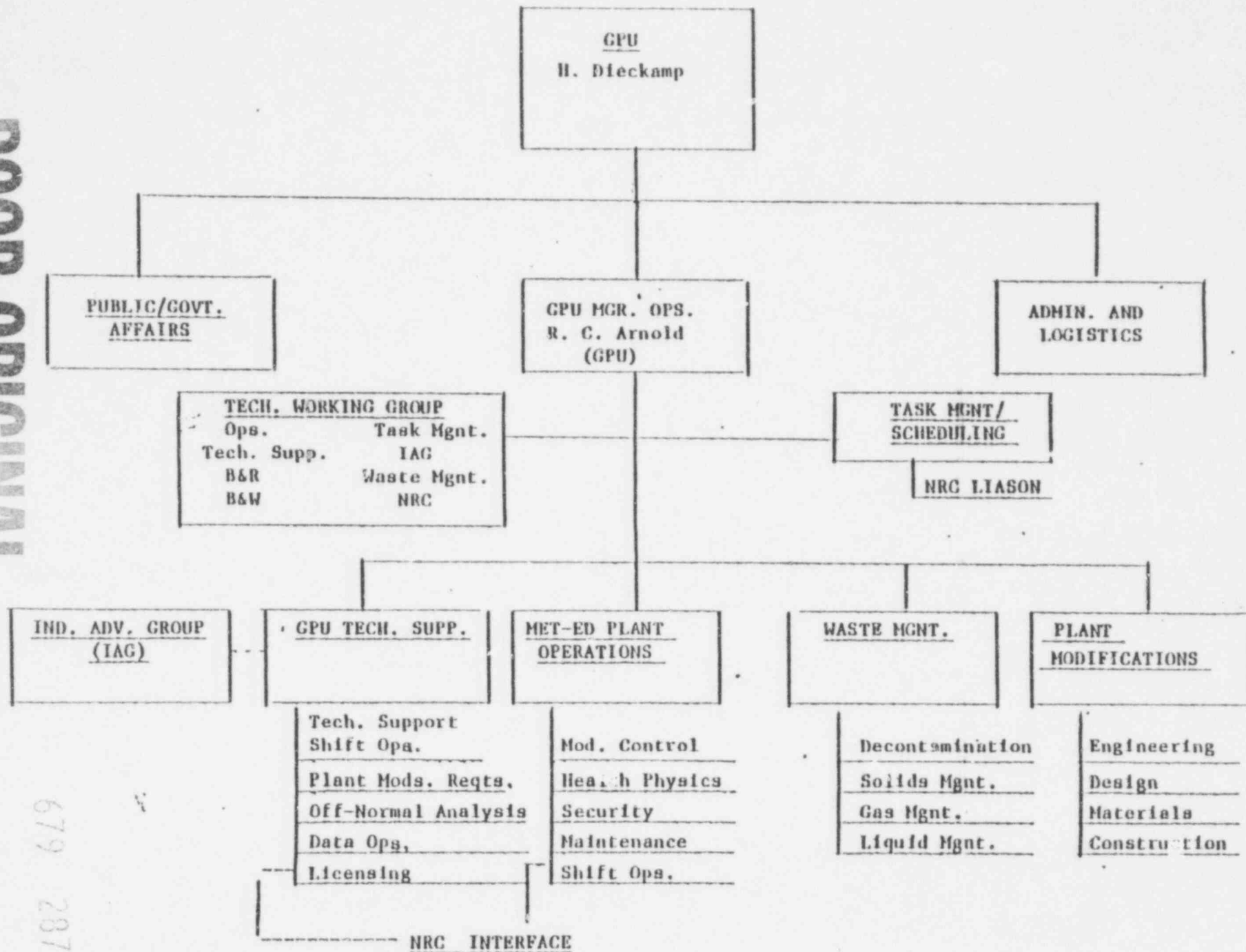
The Technical Working Group is a group which has included the heads of each of the groups previously described and representatives from Babcock and Wilcox Co. and the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. This group was the mechanism by which we ensured that all activities, proposed courses of action, and contingency plans received proper analysis and coordination within the organization. From the time it was formed until May 5th, the Technical Working Group met twice a day to review the progress of activities underway to fulfill the objectives of the Recovery Organization. From May 5th through May 26th, the group met daily and it now is meeting twice a week.

The Administration & Logistics Group was formed to handle the necessary administrative logistics requirements such as communications, manpower, transportation and commissary arrangements.

The Public and Government Affairs Group was established to coordinate the exchange of information with the public and governmental bodies.

Although the Recovery Organization has undergone some minor modifications over the past eight weeks and there has been some turnover of personnel in various positions, it still functions very much as it did initially and in conformance with the original priorities for the organization.

POOR ORIGINAL



679 287

EXHIBIT 1