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EA 450

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3-30-60

Administrator

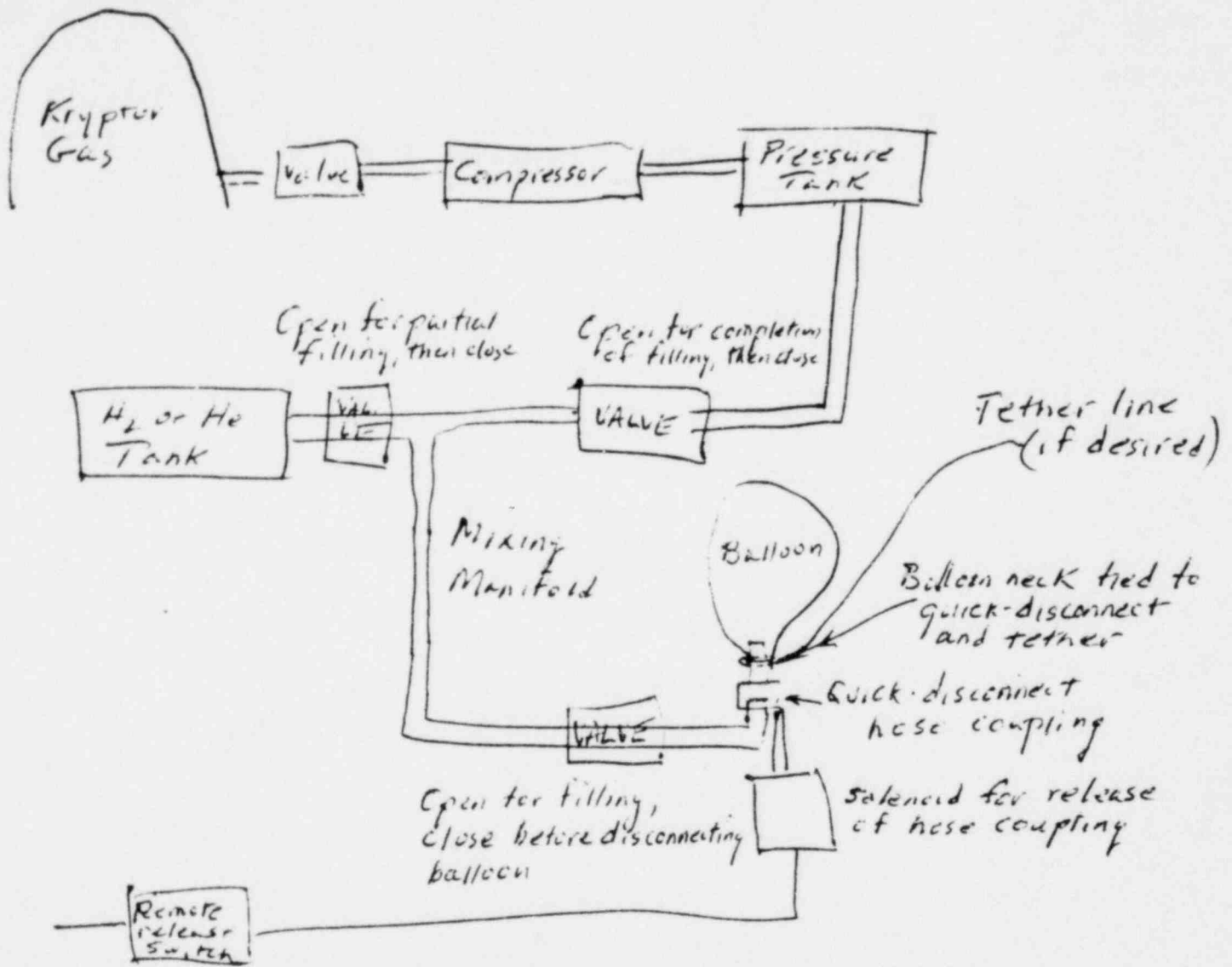
NRC

Middletown, Pa.

Dear Sir,

I wish to offer an idea which may be preferable to local venting of the radioactive Krypton gas, not because venting is a problem, but because of the emotions involved. My idea is to use meteorological balloons to carry the gas to high altitudes, where they would burst, preferably over the Atlantic Ocean if they are launched under proper wind conditions.

The attached diagram shows how the balloons could be filled with a mixture of Krypton and Hydrogen or Helium. The filling should be done atop a building so that if a balloon should burst while being filled, only a small amount of gas would be released, and it would disperse without danger to personnel on the ground. Several hundred balloons might be required.



Approach to filling balloons and releasing them from a remote location

If there is danger of radioactive contamination for the balloon material or the hose coupling used in filling the balloon, the balloons could be tethered until a sizeable group has been assembled. They could then be attached to a towing vehicle such as a blimp and transported out over the Atlantic. The burst balloons would be sunk by the weight of the hose couplings. If the balloons were filled with a mixture of Hydrogen instead of Helium, they could be totally destroyed by a radio-activated firing mechanism controlled from the towing vehicle; this might be preferable to uncontrolled bursts at high altitude because the possibility of the balloons drifting back over land would be avoided.

A helicopter could be used as the towing vehicle only if the balloons had negative buoyancy, and if such were the case, they would be difficult to control while being assembled prior to towing.

Sincerely yours

W. Herbert Taylor