



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

July 30, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bob Bernero
FROM: Peter Sicilia, Jr.
SUBJECT: REPORT OF FINDINGS

In response to your questions of July 24, 1979:

- Was there a second phone call between the Chairman and the Governor of Pennsylvania on Friday morning, 3/30/79, and did the NRC actually call for an evacuation?
- What was the basis for the evacuation order(s) if they were made by NRC?
- Why were not the designated-inspectors-assigned a part of the initial wave of inspectors on site; specifically, Haverkamp and Lazarus?

On July 25, 1979, I spoke with members of Chairman Hendrie's staff. I was told there was a second phone call. Since their recall for detail was not good, they referred me to Mr. Bill Maher who had helped research and prepare the Chairman's post-accident testimony.

I called Mr. Maher. He informed me (that) recorded in the "Chairman's Secretary Log" is a 11:35 a.m. entry indicating a call came in from Governor Thornburgh to Chairman Hendrie on 3/30/79. He did not think there was any recorded history of the call, and he was not sure if anyone had talked to the Chairman about the call.

By reviewing documents from several sources, I attempted to correlate significant transactions that took place between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on 3/30/79 to discussions either having a connotation of evacuation or an absolute direction to evacuate.

The attached document is the result of this effort. It is limited in that it does not consider data from many other sources. It can be helpful initially as a first attempt to clarify the events surrounding the evacuation confusion, and to refine the event chronology documented by Task Group #5.

A review of this condensed chronology shows that various members of NRC discussed the idea of evacuation with State officials. In one case, an NRC official told a Pa. CD officer to evacuate; however, no action was taken by virtue of that order. Subsequently, the Governor of Pa. conferred with the Chairman of the NRC on two separate occasions Friday morning, 3/30/79. Records reviewed of the first conversation reveal he recommended a "precautionary evacuation of pregnant women and pre-school children" located within a 5-mile

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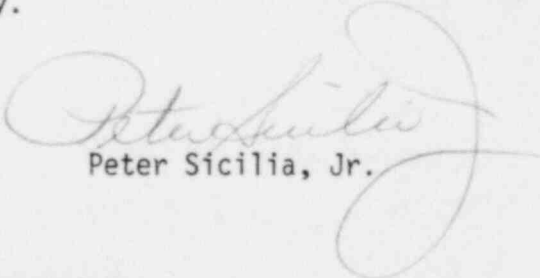
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radius of the NE quadrant of the site. There appears to be no written record of the second conversation, and so it is impossible to reflect on that conversation at this time.

To determine why the designated inspectors were not part of the first onsite wave of inspectors, I called Region I and spoke with Eldon Brunner and Don Haverkamp. Summaries of our discussions are attached. It appears that the logic of keeping the designated inspectors at the RO-I IRC was: since the site seemed to be in a state of confusion, the management team would best serve the situation by operating out of the RO-I IRC, until the H/P's determined the depth and extent of the emergency.



Peter Sicilia, Jr.

Attachments:

1. Evacuation Chronology
2. Memorandum of Telephone Conversation
with Eldon Brunner
3. Memorandum of Telephone Conversation
with Don Haverkamp

EVACUATION CHRONOLOGY

<u>TIME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>										
3/30/79 9:00 AM	<u>Collins calls Ryan</u> Leaves word that Ryan should get over to Ops Cntr because they're talking about a big evacuation around the plant.	IRC Tape 03-019-2, page 4.										
9:00+ AM	<u>Collins calls Henderson</u> ... tells him we're recommending that they go ahead and evacuate.	IRC Tape 03-019-2, page 5.										
9:00+ AM	<u>Collins calls Ryan</u> ... "I'm getting all kinds of orders and word here from Denton and his deputy and they told me to call the State CD and tell them that as far as we're concerned we recommend evacuation out to 10 miles.	ICR Tape 03-019-2, page 5.										
9:09 AM	<u>Abraham calls EMT</u> Reports radioactive releases. ... Reports that the Civil Defense people say that if the 1200 MR uncontrolled airborne release is accurate, they are going to immediately start implementing some preparation for evacuation. "They are asking us if it is true or not."	IRC Tape 03-259-7, page 5.										
9:19	<u>Denton calls Commissioner Bradford</u> Reports the State CD a few minutes earlier were recommending evacuation. "We were encouraging evacuation too."	ICR Tape 03-259-7, page 6.										
9:30	<u>Lokall, State of Pa., calls to check on Collins</u> Call to Henderson - Collins informs Lokall that now the Rad Health people say it's not necessary.	IRC 03/020/2, pg 6.										
9:30	<u>Gossick Denlon Fouchard w/Commission</u> Hendrie asks if there is a consensus to move people out beyond 5 miles quadrant <table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>Recommend</u></td> <td><u>Do Not Recommend</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Case</td> <td>Brian</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joe (Fouchard)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Harold (@ 1st word)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>I recommend a pre-cautionary evacuation in front and under the plume.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<u>Recommend</u>	<u>Do Not Recommend</u>	Case	Brian	Joe (Fouchard)		Harold (@ 1st word)		I recommend a pre-cautionary evacuation in front and under the plume.		IRC 03-260-7, pg 7.
<u>Recommend</u>	<u>Do Not Recommend</u>											
Case	Brian											
Joe (Fouchard)												
Harold (@ 1st word)												
I recommend a pre-cautionary evacuation in front and under the plume.												
9:48	<u>Abraham calls Fouchard</u> "What do you got for me?" Reply is talking to Commission now nothing yet. Call is transferred to another phone.	IRC 03-116-4, pg.8										

TIME	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
9:50	<u>Henderson to Collins</u> Wants to talk to someone who knows about this thing.	IRC 03-740-17, pg 8.
9:55	<u>Henderson to Collins</u> Asks if still recommending evacuation. <u>Collins says:</u> -- Rad Health of Pa. (Reilly) says it's not necessary. -- tells Henderson to hold. <u>Henderson says:</u> -- Rad Health is recommending to the Governor not to evacuate. -- Civil Defense is recommending him to evacuate. <u>Collins says:</u> -- that's right. -- And we (NRC) are recommending him to evacuate.	IRC 03-020-2, pg 8.
10:00	<u>Dornisfe calls Collins</u> <u>Dornisfe says:</u> -- Wants to know basis for decision to evacuate. -- Says Gallina-NRC can't comprehend how the decision was made. <u>Collins says:</u> -- People in charge here believe a precautionary evacuation is needed. -- Says he tried to call you (Rad Health) simultaneously but could not get through. -- Says I guess he (who) told the Governor to consider staying inside. -- We heard Jawrosky recommending the same. Perhaps to save NRC face or something.	IRC 03-117-4, pg. 9 pg.10
10:07	<u>Chairman Hendrie and Commissioners confer by phone with Governor Thornburgh via Fouchard.</u> <u>Hendrie says:</u> People in NE Quadrant within 5 miles of plant stay indoors for next ½ hour. <u>Hendrie receives call from IRC (Gossick & Grimes)</u> -- Grimes reports readings: .. rate of release 1200 mR 600' over plant ..will drop by a factor of 3 or 4 by time it gets off site. <u>Hendrie tells Governor</u> Suggestion to stay indoors is more of a precautionary one.	NRC meeting transcript 3/30 2 pg. 18 pg. 19 pg. 25
10:20	<u>Hendrie tells Gossick:</u> Governor is not going to order evacuation for the moment.	IRC 03-261-7, pg 11.
~10:30 PM	<u>Hendrie tells Denton to go to Site. He has just talked to the President.</u>	NRC meeting transcript 3/30 2 pg. 55

<u>TIME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
11:00	<u>Voice:</u> Radio announces possibility of evacuation and to prepare ...	
11:15	Civil Defense siren outside of 10-mile radius goes off. Are told siren went off by mistake, only sirens within a 5-mile radius were to be turned on.	IRC 03-263-7, pg 17.
	Background radio reports Critchlow recommends people within 10-mile radius stay indoors - no need for evacuation.	pg. 17
	Abraham tells Gossick FAA officially has closed Harrisburg Airport.	pg. 17
	Telephone company tells all people to stay off phones.	pg.17
11:30	Gossick tells Abraham there was another release.	pg. 17
11:35	Governor Thornburgh calls Chairman Hendrie (no record of substance of call).	Chairman's secretary log.
11:55	Abraham to Fouchard and Davis: Pa National Guard has been put on alert.	IRC 03-264-7, pg. 15.
12:00	<u>Ingram to Abraham</u> The Chairman just recommended to the Governor that there be an evacuation out to 5 miles especially for women and children.	IRC 03-265-7, pg. 15.
12:00 +	IRC tells (?) @ Site Chairman has recommended evacuation out to 5 miles.	IRC 03-025-2, pg. 15
12:01	"They are evacuating Middletown."	Herbein transient log
12:03	"NRC Chairman recommends evacuation to Governor."	Reg. I log.
12:05	Gossick learns that Hendrie recommended to Gov. -- people stay in this morning. -- pregnant women and children move out of area within 5 miles of plant.	IRC 03-217-6, pg. 15
12:00 +		

Henderson	Pa Civil Defense Director (Pa State Emerg Mgmt)
Maggie O'Reilly	Pa Rad Health (works for)
Jarowski	←
Dornsife	
Joe Deal	DOE
Tom Critchlow	
Collins, Harold (Doc)	NRC - State Programs, A/D Emergency Preparedness
Fouchard, Joe	NRC - Director of Public Affairs
Ingram, Frank	NRC - Assistant to Director of Public Affairs
Abraham, Karl	NRC - P/A Officer, Region I
Herbein, J.	V/P, Met Ed
Paul Critchlow	Governor's (Pa.) Press Secretary