

TWX INCOMING

SECRET NO.

50-22
Suppl. ~~Feb 24~~

1960 APR 4 PM 3 50

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U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMM.

WESTINGHOUSE ATO MIC POWER DEPT PGH PA VAL PA 505 4-4 GOOD AFTERNOON

MR LYALL JOHNSON CIEF LICENSING BRANCH

DIVISION OF LICENSING AND REGULATION

U S A E C WASHINGTON D C

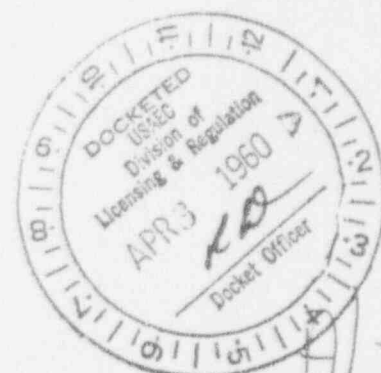
AT 8.40 PM, APRIL 3, 1960 THERE WAS A RELEASE OF FISSIONABLE MATERIALS TO THE PRIMARY COOLANT OF THE WTR PROBABLY CAUSED BY RUPTURE OF A FUEL ELEMENT. THE REACTOR WAS SHUT DOWN AT ~~1XX~~ 8.42 PM AND ALL PERSONNEL EXCEPT ONE HEALTH PHYSICIST EVACUATED IMMEDIATELY. ESTIMATED MIXED FISSION PRODUCT FROM HEAD TANK AT AN ELEVATION OF 250 FEET WAS 1.0 X 10 TO THE MINUS 8 MICROCURIES PER MILLILITER OF AIR AVERAGED OVER A 24 HOUR PERIOD. THIS IS APPROXIMATELY 10 TIMES PERMISSABLE BREATHING ZONE CONCENTRATION AT THE PERIMETER OF WTR PROPERTY THERE WAS NO DETECTABLE AIRBORNE ACTIVITY. THE MAXIMUM EXPOSURE OF WTR PERSONNEL AS A RESULT OF THE INCICXXX INCIDENT WAS LESS THAN THE PERMISSABLE WEEKLY EXPOSURE LEVEL. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE INCIDENT WOULD RESULT IN THE REACTOR BEING INOPERATIVE FOR 6 DAYS WERE IT SCHEDULED TO OPERATE. HOWEVER, A NORMAL SHUTDOWN FOR 34 DAYS TO PERMIT EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION WAS SCHEDULED TO START AT 12.01 AM ~~PAXX~~ APRIL 4 AND CONTINUE UNTIL 12.01 AM MAY 9.

E T MORRIS MANAGER WTR PROJECT

END OR GA PLS

REC OK TU END GC

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