

MAY 10 1979

Mr. James H. Elder
Wall St. Extension
Saxton, PA 16678

Dear Mr. Elder:

This is in response to your April 9 letter to Mr. Karl Abraham, the Region I Public Affairs Officer. Mr. Abraham is on an extended assignment in Harrisburg related to the nuclear incident at Three Mile Island, and is unavailable to respond to your letter.

Responses to the questions and requests for information contained in your April 9 letter are contained in the following paragraphs. Your requests are relatively extensive, and to research them thoroughly would require more resources than have available at this time. However, inspection reports the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation are available the Region I files going back at least as far as 1965, and they would be made available for you to read if you were to visit the Region I office in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

I have paraphrased your questions and requests for information and responded to each in the following numbered paragraphs.

Q1. You refer to Mr. Abraham's letter of May 16, 1978 to Mr. Jon D. Zaughman, Editor and Publisher of the Broad Top Bulletin, and note that Mr. Abraham referred to an accident release of radiation at the Saxton reactor of May 14, 1968. You ask for data on the amount of radiation released and the direction it traveled after its release.

A1. I can only conclude that Mr. Abraham's letter was in error with regard to the date of the release, since no mention of a release on that date is contained in inspection reports for Saxton. Instead, I believe that Mr. Abraham intended to refer to a release which occurred on May 14, 1970. We do not have the information which you requested, but the information we do have is contained in report #146/70-2. A copy of this report is enclosed for your convenience.

Asst. to the Dir.
G.L. Snyder/dih
5/9/79

Director
B.H. Grier

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Q2. You asked for information about the number and location of radiation monitoring stations, their average annual readings, and any spikes of radiation which may have been identified. You express a particular interest in spikes and readings immediately following the May 14 release.

A2. Again, I do not believe that we have the information which you request except, possibly, there may be some information about location of radiation monitoring stations in our files. As noted previously, you are welcome to visit the Region I office and review the files for Saxton.

Q3. You asked if it was possible that there are some instances where overexposures were not reported. You go on to say that Robert Swift, reportedly a former engineer at the reactor, stated on at least one occasion that, "I really got a dose of radiation out there today," and ask if Mr. Swift's death from Wegners disease could have been radiation induced.

A3. It is, of course, possible that any licensee may fail to make a required report. However, our inspection of reactors includes a review of records relating to releases of radioactive materials and a review of exposure records. It is thus likely, although not an absolute certainty, that we would learn of overexposures even though the licensee failed to report them.

I am unable to respond to your question about whether radiation could have resulted in Mr. Swift becoming afflicted with Wegners disease. Such an opinion should be obtained from a suitably qualified medical authority.

Q4. You reference a book by Robert V. Cox, Deadly Pursuit, presumably about the kidnapping of a teenage girl in Shada Gap. You then quote from the book part of a passage relating to a conversation between Mr. Charles Griffith, Chief Security Officer of the Pennsylvania Electric Company, and Mr. Thomas McGinn of the K-9 Academy in El Dorado, Arkansas. You quote Mr. Griffith as saying, "I know what you and your dogs have done in the past. We know what you did at the atomic electric plant at Saxton, and I think that if you bring your best dogs, you can wrap this thing up in no time and maybe save the girl's life, Griffith added." You then ask what happened at Saxton that required the assistance of such elite dogs and their trainer.

I can find nothing in our files which relates to the use of trained dogs at Saxton. Further, I have asked several individuals who were associated with Saxton in the 1960's, and none recall

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any such incident.

I am sorry about not being more responsive but hope that the information which I have provided will be of some use to you.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Snyder
Assistant to the Director

Dictated by GLS

Enclosure: As stated

cc: Karl Abraham