

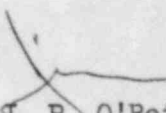
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NOTE TO L. D. LOW

HUMBOLDT INVESTIGATION

Dr. Hanauer called me yesterday afternoon as senior Compliance person present (SCCP). In brief he has the assignment to approve our actions on the investigation at Humboldt. He stated that your letter to Price of June 8, 1971, did not properly address itself to the issue. If you want to pursue this further, he will need additional documentation.

Please find enclosed a paragraph that I feel will meet his needs. This paragraph could be added to the attachment on your June 8 letter.

  
J. P. O'Reilly

Enclosure:  
As Stated

cc: R. H. Engelken

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PDR ADOCK 05000133  
Q PDR

RECOMMENDED ADDITION TO ATTACHMENT TO YOUR LETTER OF JUNE 8

The presence of management personnel during certain investigative interviews restricts the normal employee from openly discussing incidents and situations that relate directly to the purpose of the investigation. The interviewing of an employee at his home, or similar location, is not always acceptable in that he may decline to meet with us, presumably on the bases that his employer would look at this "clandestine" operation in an unfavorable manner. Furthermore, an employee does not have available to him records and notes that may be required to refresh his memory on issues developed during the interview. In this particular case, the above reasons for conducting interviews at the plant, without the presence of management representatives, are applicable.

ATTACHMENT

There is an allegation that there was an inadequate evaluation of the potential exposure to airborne activity before entry was made to the reactor access shaft to valve off the reactor cleanup pump following the failure of the pump seal during the early morning hours of June 21, 1970.

In pursuing our investigation, we wish to examine all records prepared by operations and radiation protection personnel who were involved in the incident. We also feel that it is necessary to discuss, in private interviews, these records and details of the incident with the following individuals who were involved in the occurrence.

James D. Shiffer, Nuclear Engineer  
Donald M. Voss, Senior Licensed Operator  
Nicanor C. Pena, Licensed Operator  
Raymond W. Grundhofer, Licensed Operator  
Ronald Grauer, Auxillary Operator

In addition, in regard to other allegations concerning improper handling of a dropped Pu-Be source, airborne activity in the control room, and inadequate Special Work Permits for entry to radiation areas, we wish to examine pertinent records and interview, privately, all Radiation Control Technicians. This involves at least seven, including:

Mark Stevens  
Donald Woods  
William Evans  
Raymond Skidmore

Each of these persons, and others whose knowledge of these items may become apparent, will also be asked if he has ever been told explicitly by management that he should not report matters of radiation safety to AEC representatives or if he has been threatened with reprisals if he should talk to or write the AEC, as provided on AEC Form 3. This pertains to one of Mr. Rowen's principal allegations. We feel that a number of persons need to be interviewed on a private basis to establish whether there is any substance to this allegation.

The presence of management personnel during certain investigative interviews restricts the normal employee from openly discussing incidents and situations that relate directly to the purpose of the investigation. The interviewing of an

employee at his home, or similar location, is not always acceptable in that he may decline to meet with us, presumably on the bases that his employer would look at this "clandestine" operation in an unfavorable manner. Furthermore, an employee does not have available to him records and notes that may be required to refresh his memory on issues developed during the interview. In this particular case, the above reasons for conducting interviews at the plant, without the presence of management representatives, are applicable.