

H. 6/10

Action

June 8, 1971

NOTE TO HAROLD L. PRICE

ALLEGATIONS BY MR. R. J. ROWEN, JR., RELATING TO THE
OPERATION OF PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY'S
HUMBOLDT BAY REACTOR

This is to inform you of the current status of our
investigation of the subject allegations. Preliminary
information regarding these allegations was described
in my note to you dated May 4, 1971.

Information developed by our investigation to date in-
dicates that some of the allegations may have substance.
We plan to continue our investigation at the plant site
by reviewing additional facility records and interviewing
selected operating personnel. It is necessary that we
interview these personnel alone and at the plant to get
the best factual information available. Mr. Paul Matthew,
Manager, Steam Generation Department and Mr. R. Ramsey,
Plant Superintendent, have both stated that they will not
permit company personnel to be interviewed at the plant
during working hours without a representative of PG&E
management being present. This is unacceptable to us.
Attached is a list of personnel we plan to talk to
together with the reasons why we want to talk to them
at the plant rather than at their homes.

Unless you have further guidance on this, I plan to call
Mr. Matthew myself to request that he arrange for the
necessary interviews at the plant. If he does not do so,
I will call Mr. Matthew's superior, a Vice President
(Mr. Braun) and then the President, if necessary.

1182
1600
6/28/71

D. Low
Lawrence D. Low

Attachment:
As stated

cc w/a+t.
CKBeck, DR
MMMann, DR
CLHenderson, DR
SHHanauer, DR
PAMorris, DRL
EGCase, DRS

LEJohnson, DML
HKShapar, GC
BHSchur, GC
RHEngelken, CO
JJWard, CO:IV
Gertter, DR-3364

8305180710 710915
PDR ADOCK 05000133
Q PDR

Rec'd Off. Dir. of Reg.
Date 6/16/71
Time 10:30

*James D. Shiffer
Donald M. Voss
Nicanor C. Pena
Raymond W. Grundhofer
Ronald Grauer*

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.

6/28/71

Reminder:

Mr. Low wanted
this brought to
your attention.

My ✓

See Fred's note.



MEMO ROUTE SLIP

Form AEC-93 (Rev. May 14, 1947) AECM 0240

See me about this.
Note and return.For concurrence
For signature.For action.
For information.

TO (Name and unit) <i>RE</i>	INITIALS <i>RE</i> DATE <i>6/30</i>	REMARKS <i>Pls keep this in official</i>
TO (Name and unit) <i>File</i>	INITIALS DATE 	REMARKS <i>file, when we are ready</i>
TO (Name and unit) <i>Official Humboldt file.</i>	INITIALS DATE 	REMARKS <i>know + I'll call Mathew</i>
FROM (Name and unit) <i>Low</i>	REMARKS <i>for starters</i>	<i>Notified Smith & Spencer by telcom that they should contact us when Ward & inspector have completed preparation for resumption of investigation. You will then call Mathew. Note 6/30</i>
PHONE NO.	DATE <i>6/29</i>	

USE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL REMARKS

294-619

June 8, 1971

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(Mr. Braun) and then the President, if necessary.

Original signed by:

L. D. Low

Lawrence D. Low

Attachment:
As stated

cc w/att.

CKBeck, DR

MMann, DR

CLHenderson, DR

SHHannauer, DR

OFFICE: PMorris, DRL

EGCase, DRS

LEJohnson, DML

HKShapar, GC

BHSchur, GC

RHEngelken, CO

JJWard, CO:IV

GERtter, DR-3364

SURNAME ▶

DATE ▶

RHEngelken:kt

6/8/71

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OFFICE ►						
SURNAME ►						
DATE ►						