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UNCLAS FOR L D LOW CMM DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE INFO L W
SNYDER CMM DRD FROM DONALD I WALKER. ON 8/30/60 AT 1325 THIS
OFFICE WAS INFORMED OF A POSSIBLE TYPE "B" INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED
AT THE KERR-MCGEE OIL INDUSTRIES URANIUM MILL AT SHIPROCK CMM
NEW MEXICO CMM BY DR GRANT WINN CMM UTAH STATE DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH. ACCORDING TO WINN CMM HE HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE INCIDENT
BY THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. WINN STATED THAT ON AUGUST
22 1960 CMM A HOLDING TANK IN THE VANADIUM CIRCUIT OF THE MILL
BROKE CMM RELEASING ITS CONTENTS INTO THE SAN JUAN RIVER. DR
WINN HAD NO DETAILS AS TO THE QUANTITY OR CONCENTRATION OF
CFN 8/30/60 1325 "B" 22 1960

001353

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PDR FOIA
BARNES85-529 PDR

P

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MATERIAL RELEASED TO THE RIVER. HE WAS CONCERNED OVER THE RELEASE INASMUCH AS THE TEXAS-ZINC URANIUM MILL AT MEXICAN HAT CMM UTAH CMM LOCATED AS ESTIMATED 100 MILES DOWNSTREAM FROM SHIPROCK CMM NEW MEXICO CMM ON THE SAN JUAN RIVER CMM USES THE RIVER AS THE DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY FOR MILL EMPLOYEES. DR WINN STATED THAT THERE ARE NO TOWNS BETWEEN SHIPROCK CMM NEW MEXICO CMM AND MEXICAN HAT CMM UTAH CMM WHICH USE THE SAN JUAN RIVER AS THEIR SOURCE OF DOMESTIC WATER. HE STATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THE RIVER WATER WAS USED FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES BETWEEN THESE TWO LOCALITIES. PARA. AT APPROXIMATELY 1330 ON 8/30/60 CMM I CONTACTED FRANK HANAGARNE CMM SAFETY ENGINEER KERR-MCGEE OIL INDUSTRIES CMM SHIPROCK NEW MEXICO CMM BY TELEPHONE CONCERNING THIS INCIDENT. MR HANAGARNE STATED THAT ON AUGUST 22 1960 CMM SOMETIME BETWEEN 0000 AND 0800 HOURS CMM A PORTION OF THE DAM ON THE TAILINGS POND CONTAINING RAFFINATE FROM THE SOLVENT EXTRACTION SECTION OF THE VANADIUM CIRCUIT BROKE CMM RELEASING FROM 150 000 TO 200 000 GALLONS OF LIQUOR TO THE SAN JUAN RIVER. ACCORDING TO MR HANAGARNE THE PH OF THE LIQUOR WAS 1.7 TO 1.8 AND CONTAINS -0049/C.-53)6 0.1 GRAM PER LITER OF VANADIUM OXIDE AND A TRACE OF URANIUM OXIDE. MR HANAGARNE STATED THAT HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT THE RA-226 CONCENTRATION WAS INASMUCH AS IT HAD NEVER BEEN DETERMINED. ACCORDING TO MR

CFN 100 1330 8/30/60 22 1960 0000 0800 150 000 200 000 1.7 1.8 0.1
RA-226

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HANAGARNE CMM THE NORMAL RIVER FLOW IS APPROXIMATELY 10P CFS CMM BUT AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT WAS ONLY ABOUT 200 CFS. I ASKED MR HANAGARNE IF MILL PERSONNEL HAD REPORTED THE INCIDENT TO THE AEC. MR HANAGARNE REPLIED THAT THE INCIDENT HAD BEEN REPORTED ONLY TO THE NEW MEXICO STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. HE FURTHER STATED THAT THIS REPORT HAD BEEN MADE ABOUT THE 24TH OR 25TH OF AUGUST 1960. PARA. AS FAR AS CAN BE ESTIMATED CMM THE MATERIAL RELEASED SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED AT MEXICAN HAT UTAH ON ABOUT AUGUST 27 1960. PARA. THIS OFFICE IS TAKING THE FOLLOWING ACTION RELATIVE TO THIS INCIDENT CLN

1. GEORGE SMITH CMM LICENSEE INSPECTION DIVISION CMM ID CMM WILL ARRIVE IN SHIPROCK NEW MEXICO TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION ON AUGUST 31 1960 CMM AND WILL SAMPLE ANY RESIDUAL EFFLUENT WHICH REMAINS.
2. THE UTAH STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT WILL COLLECT RIVER CMM PORTABEL WATER CMM AND WATER TREATMENT PLANT SLUDGE SAMPLES AT MEXICAN HAT UTAH.

THE ANALYSIS BRANCH CMM DIVISION OF HEALTH AND SAFETY CMM ID CMM WILL ANALYZE ALL SAMPLES FOR RA-226 AND TH-230 IN AN EFFORT TO DETERMINE WHETHER SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF THESE MATERIALS HAVE FOUND THEIR WAY INTO THE DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY AT MEXICAN HAT CEN 1060 200 24TH 25TH 1960 27 1960 31 1960 RA-226 TH-230 C WA APPROXIMATELY 1060 C LN 16 1ST WD POTABLE

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UTAH. BASED ON KNOWN CONCENTRATIONS OF SIMILAR SOLUTIONS AT
OTHER URANIUM MILLS CMM IT IS ESTIMATED THAT A MINIMUM OF 3000
MICROCURIES OF RA-226 WAS RELEASED. PARA. FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS
WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOU BY TWX OR PHONE. END REF LI CLM DIW

BT

CFN 3000 RA-226 LI DIW

C WA URANIUM MILLS

30/2400Z

