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THRU: K. E. Fields, General Manager
David F. Shaw, Assistant General Manager
for Manufacturing

June 19, 1956

G. F. Quinn, Acting Director
Division of Production

CONTAMINATION OF REDOX

SYMBOL: P:GFQ

I was advised by HOO today of an incident in the Redox plant in which plutonium-bearing solution leaked thru the bellows of a control valve. As a result of this leakage four men became contaminated with plutonium; of these, three have been successfully cleaned up and released, while the fourth remains in the hospital. Of the three men released after decontamination two may have inhaled some plutonium. With respect to the fourth individual there is evidence that a considerable amount was inhaled and although quantitative information on the degree of contamination will not be available for some time, preliminary estimates are that the amount of material does not exceed the maximum permissible limit. It is anticipated that he will be released from the hospital within a day or two.

Complete details on the cause of the solution leakage are not now available, but it is estimated that the plant will be down until the first of July.

I will provide you with further information on this incident and on the effect of the plant outage on plutonium deliveries as soon as possible.

cc: Dan Hayes, Division of O&P

Copy to Dr. C. L. Dunham

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BY E. B. BARNES, DATE:
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