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DRAFT - July 26, 1956
D. Clark

To: Managers of Operations

From: General Manager

Subj: ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACCIDENTS OR UNUSUAL INCIDENTS IN AEC PROGRAM

Symb: ISP:DC

Several recent accidents at Commission facilities have indicated a need to clarify and restate Commission policies regarding the reporting of such occurrences to news media and the public.

The general policy of the Commission is to provide factual information on accidents and unusual incidents as quickly as possible to news media and to local authorities.

The Division of Information Services will provide public information guidance and will coordinate review of proposed instances upon request by the Operations Office. Under the provisions of AEC 3105-052, the Manager of Operations may issue an announcement without prior review when, in his judgment the interests of the atomic energy program are best served by such action. Under this provision, a Manager of Operations may issue a release ^{on} ~~in~~ an accident or incident without prior review if instance appears necessary to reduce public alarm and publication of exaggerated reports. Information copies of public instances on accidents or incidents should be teletyped to the program division and to the Division of Information Services as quickly as possible.

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AUTHORITY: DOE-DPC
BY E. B. BARNES, DATE:
EB Barnes 4/18/86

The type of accidents and incidents which should be publicly announced can be defined only in a general sense, and judgment of the Operations Office must be exercised regarding specific incidents. The Division of Information Services will provide guidance upon request. The types of accidents or incidents which ordinarily should be announced include the following:

What about
accidents
causing deaths
to employees?

1. Accidents requiring hospitalization of employees.
2. Accidents or incidents involving the evacuation of an area.
3. Accidents involving significant damage to a facility.
4. Accidents involving exposure to radioactivity in amounts above the permissible limit, integrated over one quarter, or internal deposition in amounts above the maximum permissible body burdens.

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5. Accidents or incidents, particularly involving radioactivity, which are likely to result in the spread of rumors or exaggerated reports. For example, an incident involving non-routine monitoring of structures, equipment or workers.

6. Accidents or incidents requiring a report to state or local regulatory, police or fire authorities.

Issuance of information on accidents or incidents before rumors have spread to news media and the public is important to demonstrate the desire of the Commission to make such information public. The Commission's credibility is damaged by tardy statements which appear to have been forced out by inquiries regarding unofficial reports or rumors.