

C. Hunt + A. D. Ward

INTER-COMPANY CORRESPONDENCE FILE 1078

OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY
Operated By

(INSERT NAME) COMPANY CARBIDE AND CARBON CHEMICALS COMPANY LOCATION Post Office Box P OAK RIDGE, TENN.

TO R. L. Clark
LOCATION

DATE March 3, 1954 719992

ATTENTION
COPY TO AHP-File

ANSWERING LETTER DATE
SUBJECT Release of Radioactive Gas to Atmosphere

At 2:15 PM on 2-22-54, P. M. Lantz of Chemistry released radioactive gas to the atmosphere from Parker's equipment at Bldg. 7500.

Personnel in and around the building were evacuated with the exception of Hairston and Smith, who donned assault masks and stayed with the reactor. The reading in the control room was up to 60 mr/hr for approximately 30 minutes; out in building proper reading was up to 4000 mr/hr; out at guard gate reading was up to 100 mr/hr. Personnel were allowed free use of the whole building at 3:30 PM without masks.

I assumed, at the instant of the release, that the activity was from Xenon and Krypton. My assumption is believed to have been correct since no residual activity was found by later surveys. Urine samples on some of the personnel involved were requested.

The activity came from a vacuum pump that exhausted to atmosphere while pumping on a cold trap. At approximately 3:00 PM the pump read 40,000 mr/hr at 3". The next morning at 8:30 AM the pump read 20 mr/hr at 3".

L.C. Johnson
L. C. Johnson

LCJ:cs

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Human Studies Project