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May 1973

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March 17, 1948

**SPECIAL RE-REVIEW  
FINAL DETERMINATION  
DECLASSIFICATION CONFIRMED**

BY AE Barber DATE 2-25-82  
BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

JE Savely 9-14-98  
Jmiles 3-11-99  
L. A. DARLING  
WORKS ENGINEER

**EMERGENCY INCIDENT**

At approximately 3:00 p.m. on March 10, the process units in all 105 Buildings were shut down by automatic action of the safety circuits because of an electric power system fault of very short duration. Motor-driven equipment stopped, and as a result, process was restored within a matter of several minutes in the B and D Areas and a little over an hour in the F Area. Subsequent investigation indicated that the voltage dip was caused by a fault which occurred on the Midway-North Bonneville No. 2 230 KV circuit. This is one of four 230 KV lines which now terminate at the Midway Substation and from which power is taken for H.M.W. The fault was automatically cleared by the line terminal breakers. The circuit was restored manually by the Midway and Bonneville operators in about two minutes.

From Military Intelligence sources, it was learned that the line fault was caused by a large balloon of enemy origin dropping into the phase wires of the circuit. It burst into flames upon contact with the power line and the underhung equipment on the balloon dropped to the ground. The line was not seriously damaged as evidenced by the fact that it was restored to service in two minutes.

It should be noted that the balloon could have dropped anywhere on the Project Area, and its equipment could have caused much more serious damage as far as the plant and its processes are concerned.

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

*P. S. Staff*

P. S. Staff  
Electrical Superintendent

PSS:alb

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