

The China Syndrome

by Burton Wohl

**An Adaptation via Thinking Processes Affording
Joy in Learning and Logical Analysis**

an *auto*SOCRATIC QUICK-START publication

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Background

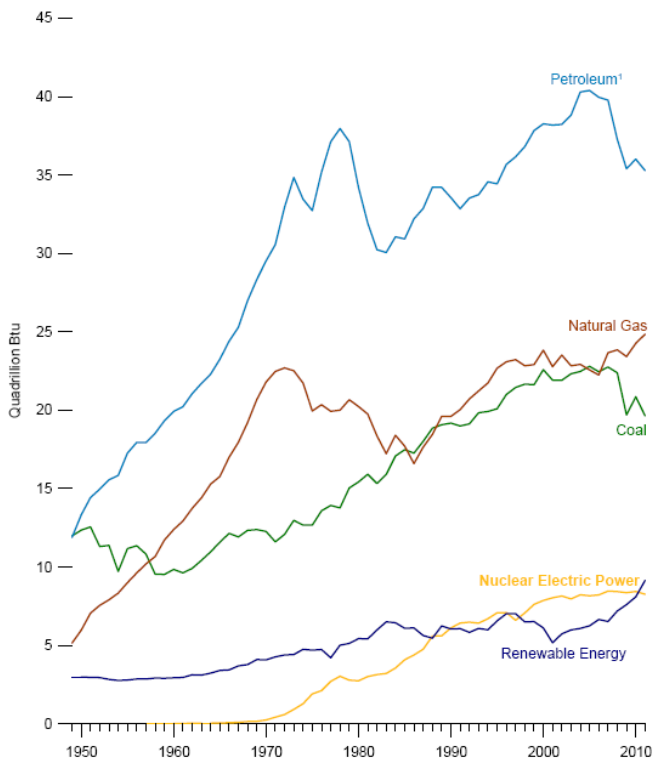
How does a power plant work?

Three Mile Island

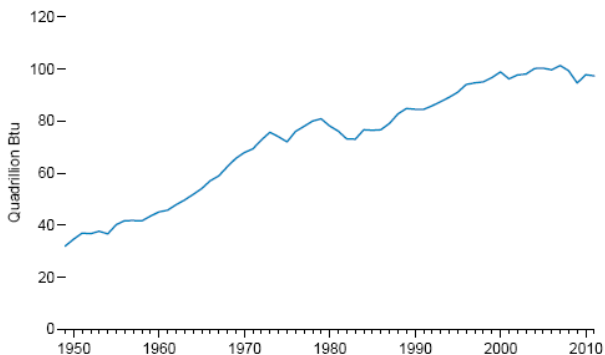
**The Manhattan Project and the History
of Nuclear Energy**

Feynman and Overconfidence

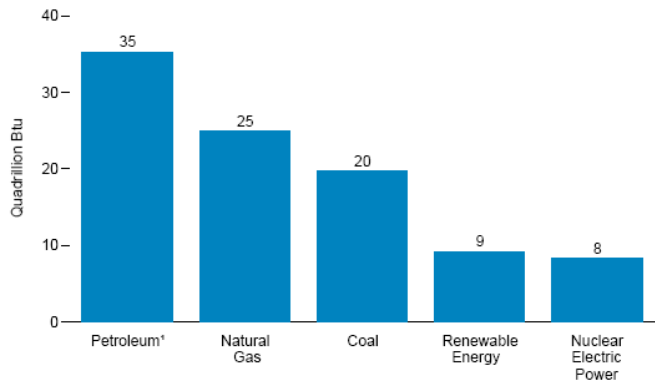
By Major Source, 1949-2011

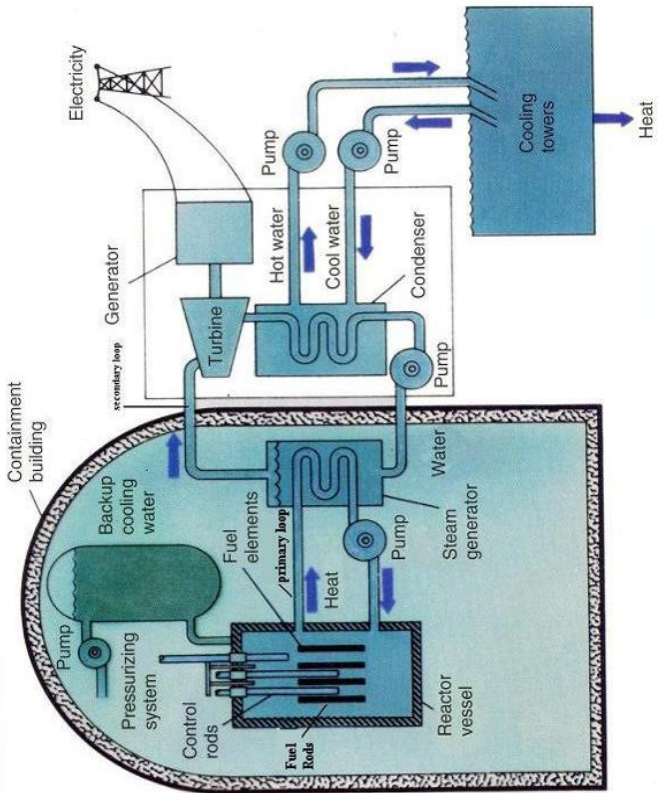


Total, 1949-2011



By Major Source, 2011



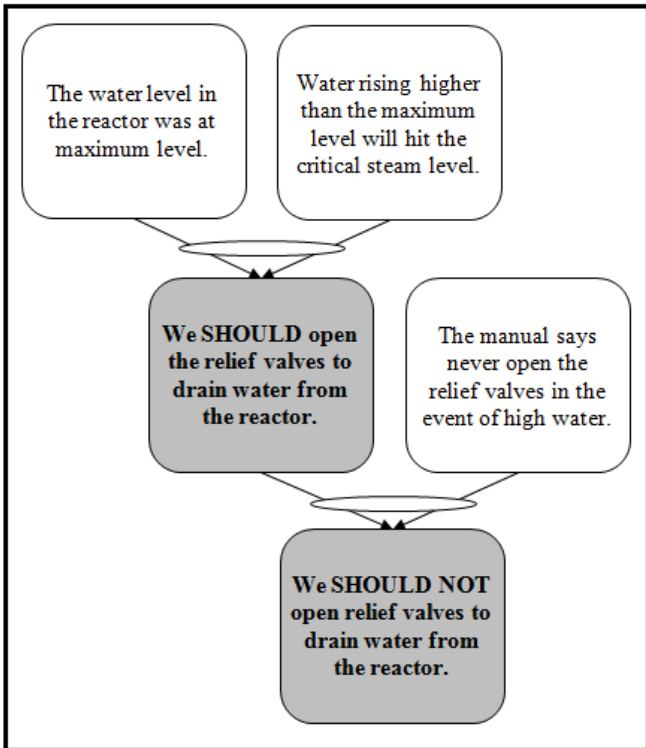


The China Syndrome

*The Logic Giving Rise to
Several Dilemmas*

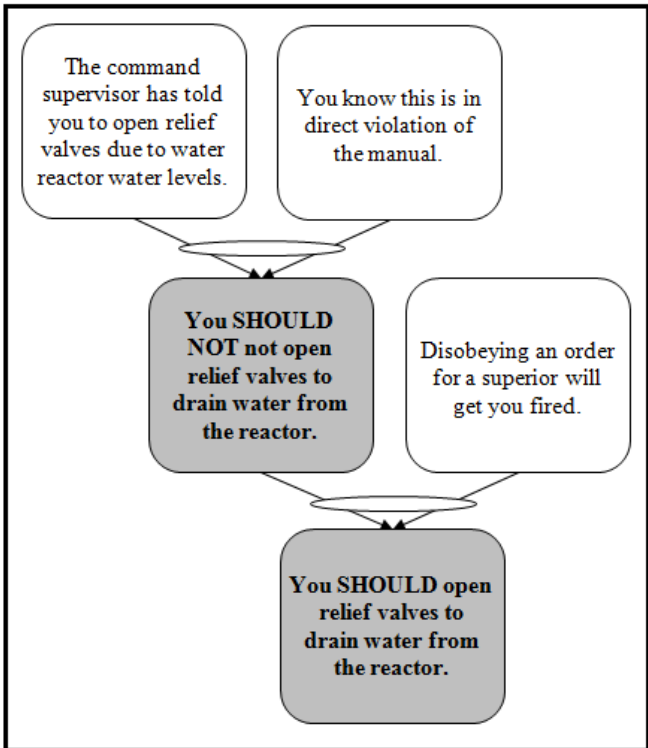
HIGH WATER LEVELS

Open Relief Valves - Or Not?



CHAIN OF COMMAND

Follow Orders - Or Not?



FILMING THE EVENT

Follow Orders - Or Not?

An "earthquake-type" shaking event has taken place, but you're told "it's normal".

You don't believe there's anything "normal" about a shaking building.

You SHOULD film what's going on in the control center.

Rules prohibit any filming of the control center.

You SHOULD NOT film what's going on in the control center.

EXPOSE THE FILMING

Obey the Rules - Or Not?

Your cameraman has been told not to film the control center.

You see him filming the control center

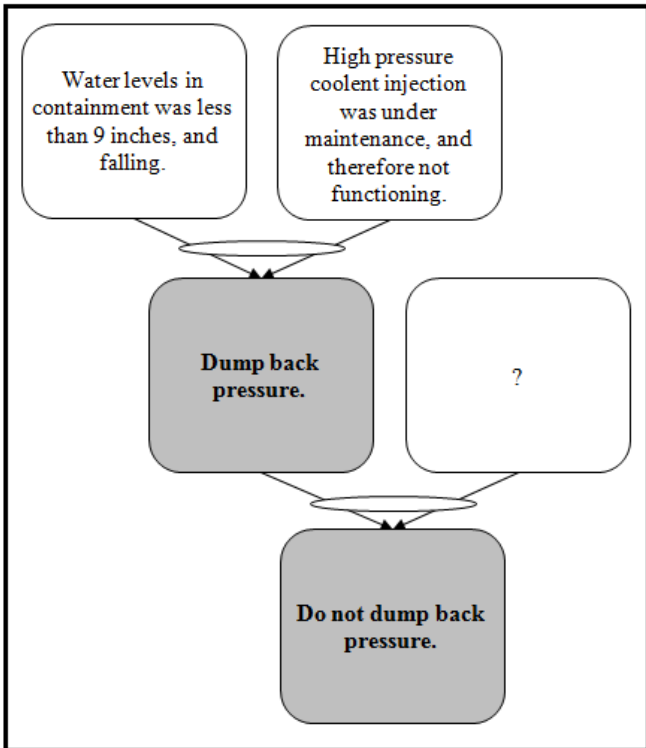
You SHOULD tell him to stop.

?

You SHOULD NOT tell him to stop.

DUMP BACK PRESSURE

Take the Risk - Or Not?



GO WITH THE STORY?

Report - or Do Not Report?

The Ventana Nuclear Reactor suffered a serious incident.

The news team doing a story on Energy filmed the entire action in the control center.

REPORT the Ventana accident.

Without more information, you don't know if what happened was an accident or not.

Do NOT REPORT the Ventana accident.

GO ONLINE?

Follow Orders - Or Not?

The NRC conducted a review and determined, though there were operator errors, the plant was safe.

You felt a secondary vibration not related to the turbine trip.

You SHOULD NOT start up the reactor.

Keeping Ventana offline not only loses money, but jeopardizes the next reactor under review.

You SHOULD start up the reactor.

GO WITH THE STORY?

Report - or Do Not Report?

You've had experts review the film, and they believe there was nearly a meltdown - The China Syndrome.

Hundreds of thousands of lives are at stake if the reactor is not safe.

GO with the story.

The filming of the control center is a federal offense and you could go to prison.

Do NOT GO with the story.

A CAREER MOVE

Jeopardize My Career - Or Not?

The company has downplayed the "unanticipated transient", and the NRC has finished its review.

You're certain what was filmed in the control room was a serious accident.

You SHOULD report what you've seen.

You've worked hard to get to your position, and are certain the newstation will fire you.

You SHOULD NOT report what you've seen.

THE FATE OF THE FILM

Steal the Film - Or Not?

The newstation
refuses to report the
story, and has locked
the film in the vault.

You fear the film
will be destroyed
and the story
covered up.

**You SHOULD steal
the film.**

Theft is a crime.

**You SHOULD
NOT steal the film.**

A SCAPEGOAT

Help Solve the Problem - or Not?

Jack Goddell is asking you your analysis of something odd that happened during the SCRAM.

The NRC has completed the investigation, and you were questioned twice as long as everyone

You SHOULD NOT talk with Jack, as you think everyone's looking for a scapegoat.

Something wrong with the plant would threaten the lives of millions of people.

You SHOULD talk with Jack.

RECOVERY

Tell the Boss the Film is Gone - Or Not?

Jackovic, the head of the network, is on vacation and left you in charge.

Richard has stolen the film from the vault.

You SHOULD tell Jackovic the film has been stolen.

Jackovic will hold you responsible for losing the film.

You SHOULD tell Jackovic the film has been stolen (instead trying to get it back before Jackovic returns).

A NEWS STORY

Report Typical News Story - Or Not?

Richard has the film
at the Point
Conception reactor
public hearing.

You need to get the
film back, and know
there's a public
protest planned at
the hearing.

**You SHOULD do a
news story on the
public protest.**

Your job is to do
"light" stories on
"things of interest".

**You SHOULD
NOT do a news
story on the public
protest.**

X-RAYS

Report the Incident - Or Not?

In reviewing the quality-control x-rays for the reactor pumps, you see they're all the same x-ray.

You fear the secondary vibration you felt was due to the reactor pump.

You SHOULD report the violation to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The NRC would shut the plant down, and you might lose your job.

You SHOULD NOT report the violation to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

FALSIFYING X-RAYS

What Do I Do?

Royce has been caught falsifying the x-rays for the reactor pump, and is going to be reported to the NRC.

A serious violation of this kind will ruin your company and maybe land you in prison.

You SHOULD destroy the films and anybody who gets in your way.

The reactor SCRAM suggests there is something wrong with the pumps.

You SHOULD NOT destroy the films and anybody who gets in your way.

THE FINAL SCENE

Seize Control of the Control Room - Or Not?

You're certain the reactor pump is unsafe, and the reactor dangerous.

The reactor is going online.

You SHOULD do whatever it takes to stop the reactor from going online.

You will be viewed as a possible terrorist and treated as such.

You SHOULD NOT do whatever it takes to stop the reactor from going online.

GAINING ACCESS

SCRAM the Reactor - Or Not?

The only way to distract Goddell is to SCRAM the system.

SCRAMMING the system is what caused Goddell to seize control of the control room in the first place.

You SHOULD NOT SCRAM the reactor.

Not following orders will get you fired.

You SHOULD SCRAM the reactor.

INTERVIEWED

Tell the Truth - Or Not?

Your best friend was so concerned about the reactor going live he used a gun to stop the start-up.

Your best friend was shot and killed.

During the interview, you **SHOULD** tell the truth about what your friend said.

Telling the truth might get you fired.

During the interview, you **SHOULD NOT** tell the truth about what your friend said.

