

EMP

February 26, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR

General George A. Lincoln
Director
Office of Emergency Preparedness

An area of concern to this office in connection with emergency communications planning is the effect of Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP).

Based on authoritative information, it appears that a serious problem exists with respect to the impact of EMP upon commercial and Government power sources. To our knowledge, no tests have been conducted on power systems but it is indicated that area-wide tripping of protective relays is likely. Since the breakers are operated by compressed air or electric storage, the number of operations is limited before permanent loss of power would take place.

As this is of major significance in overall emergency planning, it would appear to be within your purview.

In order to equate the impact of possible power loss upon communications readiness, I would appreciate being advised as to measures taken or planned to avert the disruption of power sources under EMP conditions.

Clay T. Whitehead

WDeanJr/dtb Feb 26, 1971

FM/Reading/OTP Daily Reading File