

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION - REGION III

August 9, 2010

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-III-10-013

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region III staff on this date.

Facility

Former Breckenridge Disposal Site (Non-
licensee)
4490 East Madison
Breckenridge, MI
Docket: 40-06264

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

SUBJECT: POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILL AT THE FORMER
BRECKENRIDGE DISPOSAL SITE

DESCRIPTION:

On August 5, 2010, the custodial trustee for the Breckenridge, Michigan former disposal site informed NRC Region III and the National Response Center of a small spill of an unknown and potentially hazardous material that occurred during onsite excavation activities. The former disposal site occupies approximately 1.25 acres in a rural area of central Michigan. Excavation activities had been ongoing at the site since May 2010, to cleanup known low levels of radioactive material under NRC's jurisdiction.

During those excavation activities, the decommissioning contractor, Energy Solutions, LLC, struck two buried drums, spilling about 20 to 30 gallons of an unknown liquid. All work was stopped and the site was evacuated. Work will not resume onsite until the spilled liquid has been analyzed and a plan is formulated for its collection. Three workers involved in the excavation activity on August 5, 2010, were evaluated by the contractor's health care provider and released without medical treatment. The spill is contained onsite in a trench and does not appear to be migrating offsite. Access into the site is controlled by a locked perimeter fence.

An NRC inspector was dispatched to the site on August 6, 2010, to monitor and assess the situation. Specialists in the NRC Region III office have been closely following the excavation activities and will continue to monitor the contractor's progress in resolving this matter and future cleanup activities.

On August 6, 2010, a hazardous materials contractor collected samples of the unknown liquid for analysis and identification. The results of that analysis are pending.

The State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment was informed.

The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with the custodial trustee and is current as of 3:00 p.m. (CDT) on August 9, 2010.

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