

From: Claire Messenger <claire.messenger@bbc.co.uk>
To: "Kevin Ramsey" <KMR@nrc.gov>
Date: 11/4/02 9:25AM
Subject: RE: NRC event reports

FOI/PA REQUEST
Case No: 2003-0052
Date Rec'd: 11-5-02
Action Off: *foi*
Related Cases:

Hi there Kevin,

Many thanks for your help over the last few months - you have been very efficient & have provided me with some very useful information for the BBC documentary that I am working on.

I was hoping that (re the e-mail below) you might be able to point me in the right direction to obtain a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the incident in Long Island in 1996. This is when 2/3 people were found to be conspiring to murder some local politicians in the Suffolk County area, by placing stolen radioactive substances in the victims houses, car, food etc. The information you provided me about this incident is below (wordperfect 6.1 file).

We have been working on this story & have filmed the police in Long Island. I was hoping that you might be able to provide me with a FOIA request so that we can check all our information & ensure that it is as accurate & up-to-date as possible.

Please let me know how best to proceed with this as I need to check our information as soon as possible. Again, many thanks for your help!

Best wishes,

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<<WordPerfect 6.1>>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Kevin Ramsey [SMTP:KMR@nrc.gov]
 > Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2002 2:27 PM
 > To: claire.messenger@bbc.co.uk
 > Cc: Donald Cool; John Hickey; Sue Gagner
 > Subject: NRC event reports

>

> Per your request, I am attaching 4 files containing NRC event reports.
 > The preliminary notification (PN) file is a WordPerfect document. Please
 > let me know if you have trouble reading it. The Nuclear Materials Events
 > Database (NMED) files are hypertext format (html) which you should be able
 > to read with your web browser. The files are described below:

>

> PN-1-96-043: Report of two individuals charged with conspiracy to commit
> murder with radium by the District Attorney in Suffolk County, NY. Please
> note that NRC doesn't regulate radium. These sources fall under the
> jurisdiction of the State of New York and the U.S. Environmental
> Protection Agency.
>
> NMED 950922: NIH researchers ingested P-32 from contaminated water
> cooler.
>
> NMED 951180: MIT researcher that ingested P-32.
>
> NMED 981183: Brown University graduate student arrested by police for
> giving I-125 contaminated food to two other students.
>
> Please note that I'm pushing the limit of what I can give you without a
> formal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. If you need additional
> information, you may need to submit a FOIA request and pay a fee for the
> time required to gather the information.
>
> Let me know if you have any questions.
>
> Kevin Ramsey
> Nuclear Engineer
> Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety
> Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards
> U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
> 301-415-7887
> << File: NMED 981183.html >> << File: NMED 951180.html >> << File: NMED
> 950922.html >> << File: WordPerfect 6.1 >>

BBCi at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

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-1- June 14, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-96-043

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 Region I staff (King of Prussia, Pennsylvania) on this date.

Facility	Licensee Emergency Classification
Private Residence (2)	Notification of Unusual Event
Suffolk County, New York	Alert
	Site Area Emergency
	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: TWO INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MURDER
INVOLVING RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL (RADIUM)

Information reported in a June 13, 1996, news release by the Suffolk County, New York, District Attorney indicated that two men were arrested and charged with second degree conspiracy to assassinate two Suffolk County political officials and an official from the Brookhaven Department of Public Safety in a plot involving radioactive materials. The individuals allegedly planned to use radioactive material to contaminate the victims homes, cars, and food in the hope they would contract incurable, fatal diseases.

Following a court-authorized search warrant, investigators seized weapons and five lead canisters containing radium from a Bellport, Long Island, residence. Information from the New York State Health Department staff indicated that additional materials were found in another residence in Medford, Long Island, but no details were available on the types of materials involved at that location. Investigators were unable to determine how and where the canisters of radium were obtained or establish a motive.

Staff from Brookhaven National Laboratory (DOE) and the Suffolk County Health Department provided assistance and found two of the five canisters showed external surface exposure levels of 13 mR/hr and 250 mR/hr; the three other canisters were 1 mR/hr. Wipe samples showed no removable contamination. The radioactive material was secured and transferred to the State University of New York (SUNY) at Stony Brook.

The news release states that the investigation is still ongoing and more arrests are possible. This information is current as of 1:00 p.m., June 14, 1996.

Contact: Craig Gordon, RSAO
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