

DCS No.: 04006940030312
Date: March 12, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-03-005

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 I staff on this date.

Facility

Cabot Corporation
County Line Road
Boyertown, Pennsylvania 19512

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Docket No.: 040-6940

License No.: SMB-920

SUBJECT: SPILL OF MATERIAL CONTAINING VERY SMALL
AMOUNTS OF URANIUM AND THORIUM

On March 12, 2003, at 9:45 a.m., the licensee called Region I to inform the NRC that a truck carrying sludge (filter cake) from their facility in Boyertown, Pennsylvania, spilled approximately 5 tons of the material on a public road. The incident occurred at approximately 5:30 a.m. at the intersection of PA Route 100 and County Line Road in Boyertown, Pennsylvania. The material was being transported to a disposal site in Morgantown, Pennsylvania, for disposal as residual (non-radioactive) waste.

The sludge contained less than 10 picocuries per gram of uranium and thorium (0.8 parts per million of thorium and 4 parts per million of uranium). The uranium and thorium contents in the spilled material were below the licensee's authorized limits for unrestricted release.

The licensee notified the police and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The police directed the traffic away from the spilled material until the spilled material was loaded back on the truck, and the area was cleaned. The loaded truck was returned back to the licensee's facility.

Neither members of the public nor their vehicles came in contact with the spilled material. After reloading the material on the truck, the licensee cleaned the stains on the road and collected wash water, and performed radiological surveys to ensure that all material was removed from the area.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been notified. Region I is prepared to respond to inquiries from the media. This information is current as of 3:00 p.m.

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Licensee: _____
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