

May 6, 1994

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-94-025

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 II staff on this date.

Facility

Department Of The Navy
U.S.S. Lake Erie
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
Dockets: 03029462 License No: 45-236435-01

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: MEDIA INTEREST IN INADVERTENT FIRING OF DEPLETED URANIUM (DU) PROJECTILES

On May 6, 1994, the Navy Radiation Safety Committee advised Region II of the accidental firing of two depleted uranium (DU) projectiles. The incident occurred at approximately 1:30 p.m. (local time), May 5, 1994, and involved the accidental firing of two 20mm DU rounds from the USS Lake Erie's Close In Weapons System (CIWS) while the ship was at its berth at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The Navy believes that the rounds, each of which contains 70 grams of DU, fell in a non-residential area near Aiea, HI. No reports of injury or property damage have been received by the licensee. The Navy has initiated an investigation into the incident and is attempting to locate the projectiles. There has been local media interest and the licensee is prepared to response to press inquiries.

This report is for information only inasmuch as the munitions are not covered by an NRC license. RIV has been informed. The licensee has informed the State of Hawaii.

This information is current as of 12:30 p.m. on May 6, 1994.

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