

Director Highlites - Haddam Neck Dec. 3, 1997

Offsite contamination at Haddam Neck.

In August, traces of Co-60 and Cs-137 were found at a local residence, which had been a day care center. The residence was one of 19 sites that received fill material from the site in the 1988 time frame. There was no safety significance due to the contamination.

More recently, more offsite contamination has been discovered. Around 1977, Haddam Neck released about 5000 solid concrete shield blocks to plant employees. As of last week, about 300 of these were returned to the plant. The blocks were tracked down as part of the licensee's overall effort to locate all material released from the site. 6 of the blocks had measurable contact dose rates ranging from 0.25 to 1.0 mR/hr. Dose rate at 20 centimeters was around 25 microR/hr. A preliminary assessment, based on occupancy rates and the 20 cm dose rate, suggests the health impact was low. The licensee is following up on this.

The State of Connecticut and Haddam Neck have established criteria for immediate remediation of a site with blocks. The Region listened in on the discussion and had no objections.

In addition, another offsite location was found with soil contamination. Co-60 was found in 9 of 14 samples, ranging from 0.02 to 0.06 pCi/g. This is comparable in concentration to the previously discovered site. The location was one of the environmental monitoring sites, about 3 miles from the plant. Nothing was noted in the environmental samples. The fill was received about 1991.

55 sites have been identified that received soil or blocks from the plant. 23 have been surveyed. 4 sites have contaminated blocks, and 2 have contaminated soil.

J-9

MORNING REPORT November 28, 1997

MR NO:

Licensee: CYAPCo
Facility: Haddam Neck
Unit:
Rx Info: Westinghouse, 4-loop
Dockets: 50-213

Event Number: None
Event Date: November 26, 1997
Region: I
Location Code:

Notification Date & Method: Telephonic November 26, 1997, SRI
Subject: Contaminated Blocks Identified Offsite
Contact: John White (610-337-5114); Bill Raymond (860-267-2571)

Description: With the plant permanently shutdown for decommissioning, the licensee's Historical Site Survey identified that material from radiologically suspect areas of the plant had been released off site. Specifically, about 5000 solid concrete blocks had been taken by plant employees in the 1977 time period for their private use. On November 26, the licensee and a representative from the State of Connecticut completed radiological surveys at two residences in the Haddam Neck site area, designated as Survey Locations 9624 and 9629. Of 150 blocks received at 9624, the licensee identified 4 blocks that had contact dose rates in the range of 0.25 to 1.0 mR/hour; one block had smearable contamination of 3000 dpm/100 cm².

Similarly, at 9629, of an estimated 300 blocks received, about 70 were accessible to survey, and two had plant related radioactivity with one block having contact dose rates of 0.3 mR/hr. In situ gamma spectroscopy measurements on the blocks conducted by the licensee and the State representative identified Cs-137 at both sites and Co-60 at one site.

The licensee established radiological controls over the contaminated blocks at both locations. In situ exposure rate measurements were completed to perform a historical dose assessment, and the known contaminated blocks were returned to Haddam Neck as radwaste. The licensee's preliminary assessment, based on estimated occupancy times and exposure rates at 20 centimeters from the blocks measured on November 26 to be about 25 microR/hr above background, was that there was no significant radiation dose to the public, and that the risk of an adverse health impact was low. Licensee assessments were in progress to evaluate the impact for the worst case exposure rates in 1977. The licensee developed and implemented an Action Plan on November 26 to identify the locations of all concrete blocks released from the site, characterize the radiological concerns, remediate the sites, and bring back to Haddam Neck all concrete blocks.

Regional Action: The SRI accompanied the licensee and the State of Connecticut teams to the survey sites, observed the licensee's surveys and completed independent NRC measurements. The licensee's Action Plan was reviewed during a telephone conference with Region I Management at 4:00 pm on November 26. The SRI will monitor licensee surveys and site mitigation actions. Region I will follow the licensee's event response. This information is current as of 6:00 p.m. on November 26.

From: Marie Miller
To: GCP, WND2.WNP4.TLF, JLN
Date: 12/2/97 4:40pm
Subject: hADDAM NECK PRESS RELEASE

The licensee is planning to issue a press release today (12/2) at 5 pm. The purpose is to give an update on the contaminated blocks and to announce the second location where low levels of Co-60 were identified in soil. Results were below the env. LLD of 0.1 pCi/g, but were detected between the range of 0.02 and 0.06 pCi/g in 9 out of the 14 samples. Further characterization at this second soil contamination location will be conducted by the licensee.

Diane, Neil and Dave in the ORA 's office have been informed.

CC: RRB1

From: Marie Miller
To: KPD1.KPP1(RRB1), KPD1.KPP2(WJR, JRW1)
Date: 11/28/97 1:24pm
Subject: Daily - Blocks -Reply

DNMS issued the morning report around 11. Didn't know that John White was in for a time on Friday and was working on editing Bill's draft. Since one was already issued, the the DRS version was not sent.

I'll check with DRS, before releasing a report next time.

CC: KPD1.KPP2(DPS, RLN), WND2.WNP4(TLF),