

DRAFT (Revised 1/8)

The Atomic Energy Commission said today it has found low level radioactive contamination in an area of the Nuclear Metals, Inc. plant at (2229 Main Street) Concord, Massachusetts. There is no hazard to the public.

Five employes regularly worked in the area, and the company is cooperating with the AEC in a survey of the homes of these five people for possible minute traces of uranium depleted in the U-235 isotope.

The company, which employs 95 persons, has for more than 30 years conducted a foundry operation with uranium metal.

The company shut down the work area on January 3, 1974, to clean up in-plant contamination and to install new protective devices to keep the material from being inadvertently carried out of this part of the plant on the shoes or work clothing of employes.

There is a small possibility that some radioactive particles may have been tracked out of the plant in this fashion and into the homes of the five workers.

Two AEC Radiation Specialists with appropriate instruments will assist in this survey, along with representatives of the Massachusetts Department of Health and the Department of Labor and Industry.

The uranium is a byproduct of the enriching of natural uranium in uranium 235 for use as a fuel for nuclear reactors. That work is done elsewhere. The left over, depleted uranium is then obtained by Nuclear Metals, Inc. and cast into various shapes.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

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D R A F T

Nuclear Metals, Inc., of 2229 Main Street, Concord, Massachusetts, is cooperating with the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission to conduct a survey of the homes of five of its 95 employees today for possible minute traces of uranium.

The company has for more than 30 years been conducting a small foundry ~~operation~~ ^{with} operation ~~on~~ used uranium metal.

Five employes regularly worked in an area of the plant recently found during an AEC inspection to be contaminated by low-level radioactivity from uranium.

The radioactivity poses no immediate threat to the health and safety of the general public. The company shut down the work area on January 3, 1974, to clean up in-plant contamination and to ~~install~~ ^{institute} new protective measures to keep the material from being inadvertently carried out of this part of the plant on the shoes or work clothing of employes.

There is a small possibility that some radioactive particles may have been tracked out of the plant in this fashion and into the homes of the five workers.

Two AEC radiation specialists with appropriate instruments will assist in this survey, along with representatives of the ^{Massachusetts} Department of Health and the Department of Labor and Industry.

The uranium is a ~~product~~ ^{byproduct} of enriching natural uranium ^{to be} used in the subsequent fabrication of fuel for nuclear reactors. That work is done elsewhere. The left-over uranium, depleted in its more ^{important fuel components,} ~~radioactive~~ ~~is then obtained~~ ^{and} is then obtained by Nuclear Metals, Inc. ~~through a process of casting~~ cast ~~into~~ into various shapes.

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