UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE OF REGULATORY OPERATIONS
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No. RO-I-2
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT

The Atomic Energy Commission, with the cooperation of Nuclear Metals,Inc. at (2229 Main Street) Concord, Massachusetts, and five of its employees, has identified some articles of personal clothing that had been contaminated with low-level radioactivity at the plant.

The clothing, including shoes, a jacket, shirts and dungarees, were the only items found to be contaminated in the homes of the workers. A follow-up survey, made after the clothing had been taken to the company for decontamination and laundering, showed no radioactive contamination in the homes.

The radioactivity on the clothing, and some other low-level contamination found in automobiles used by employes and now being cleaned, poses no health hazard to the workers or the general public.

The company employs 95 workers, and for more than 30 years has been conducting a small foundry operation with uranium metal. Only five employees work in this part of the plant. AEC inspectors recently found some low-level contamination in that area.

The company shut down this work area on January 3, 1974, to clean up the in-plant contamination. It instituted additional protective measures to keep radioactive material from being carried out of this part of the plant on the shoes or work clothing of employees.

In the last two days, two AEC Radiation Specialists have worked with company officials and those of the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Public Health to survey the homes of the workers with appropriate instruments, and also to survey automobiles known to have been used by them. This led to removal of the clothing and cleansing of the cars.

The AEC will continue to regularly inspect this operation and the corrective and preventive measures recently taken by the company.

The uranium used by Nuclear Metals, Inc., is a byproduct of the process of enriching natural uranium in the isotope U-235. That work is done elsewhere by other companies. The product is used as fuel for nuclear reactors. The left-over U-235-depleted uranium is then obtained by Nuclear Metals, Inc. to be cast into various shapes useful to industry.

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