

BLUE SHEET

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(REGION I WORK FORM)

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 2/19/74

DIRECTORATE OF REGULATORY OPERATIONS  
NOTIFICATION OF AN INCIDENT OR OCCURRENCE

Facility Nuclear Metals Incorporated

Problem Accumulation of Highly Enriched Uranium in a Not-Safe by  
Geometry Container.

Region I was informed by telephone at 3:00 P.M. on February 15, 1974,  
by the licensee of the following:

Chemical analysis of a coolant liquid, stored in five (5) gallon  
metal containers, indicated that one of the containers could contain  
from 1800 to 3000 grams of Uranium-235. The coolant liquid is from  
a power hacksaw operation employed in a fuel element fabrication  
process. The coolant liquid was collected from the coolant  
reservoir (2 feet by 4 feet by 3 inches deep) into five not-safe by  
geometry vessels (about 15 liters in each) at termination of highly  
enriched uranium processing activities in December, 1973. The  
material was sampled and held in storage from that date. Chemical  
analysis results were received on February 15, 1974. The licensee  
has locked and restricted access to the storage area and is develop-  
ing a plan for subdivision of the material into safe by geometry  
containers.

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Action

- 1) Region I is conducting a special inspection. The State of  
Massachusetts has been notified.
- 2) Region I has confirmed the agreement that the containers of SNM  
will remain in locked storage with no movement of personnel  
equipment or material within 20 feet of the special nuclear material;  
that the licensee develop a plan to cope with the hazard and submit  
it to RO:I, and that the SNM will remain in undisturbed storage  
until RO:I has responded to the plan.
- 3) Public Information: No press release has been issued. The  
licensee's incident report is being placed in the Public Document  
Room. The Regulatory News Branch has been provided with a draft  
response to inquiries from the news media about this occurrence.

Prepared by:

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