

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-V -80-78

November 21, 1980

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is based on all that is known by IE staff on this date.

FACILITY: Nuclear Engineering Company (NECO)  
Richland, Washington Burial Site  
State of Washington and NRC Licensee

SUBJECT: BANNING OF NUCLEAR METALS, INC., CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS  
(NRC LICENSEE) FOR RADIOACTIVE WASTE SHIPMENTS

The Region V office was notified by the NRC inspector onsite that a shipment of low-level radioactive waste was received on November 20, 1980 from Nuclear Metals, Inc., Concord Massachusetts. Upon examination of the shipment by State and NRC inspectors, it was determined that one drum was leaking a green fluid around the rim of the drum. Evidence of the leaking drum was seen on the floor of the trailer. Contamination wipes taken by the NRC inspector indicated 500 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup> (beta-gamma). Wipes taken by NECO indicated 1000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup> (beta-gamma) and 100 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup> (alpha). Based upon the identified item of noncompliance, the State of Washington has cancelled the burial permit and banned the NRC licensee effective November 20, 1980, from use of the burial site until further notice. The leaking drum is being held for examination by the licensee. The remaining drums are being placed into the burial trench.

There has been no media interest.

The Region V office was notified by the NRC inspector onsite at 3:00 P.M. on November 20, 1980. This item is submitted for information only and is closed for reporting purposes.

CONTACT: R. D. Thomas, 463-3763

Distribution: Transmitted H. St. 9:55 a.m.

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