

File MD

DCS No:  
Date: August 3, 1988

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-88-57D

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

Facility:  
Neutron Products, Incorporated  
Dickerson, Maryland  
Agreement State License

Licensee Emergency Classification:  
 Notification of Unusual Event  
 Alert  
 Site Area Emergency  
 General Emergency  
 Not Applicable

Subject: CONTAMINATED INDIVIDUAL (UPDATE)

This is to update PNO-I-88-57C which reported on the identification of contamination leaving the Neutron Products facility because of inadequate monitoring of workers leaving the restricted area; and the enforcement actions taken by Maryland.

The state had issued an order to Neutron Products on June 24 to require the licensee to take specific steps to address this problem. These steps include: the immediate monitoring of the homes of individuals who entered the limited access area at the site; modification of the facility to reduce the radiation background at the contamination monitoring location; improvements in the licensee's equipment and procedures used for contamination monitoring; comprehensive monthly contamination surveys of the facility; a prohibition on eating, drinking and smoking in the entire limited access area; and a complete report to the state detailing the incident and the licensee's corrective actions.

As of August 2, 1988, with almost all off-site contamination surveys completed, the licensee's contractor reported to the State that one employee's residence had a small localized area of fixed contamination on a mattress. The measurement reported was 40 mRem/hour. The State has requested the licensee to take an isotopic measurements to confirm the contamination is Cobalt-60.

In addition, the resident who slept on that side of the mattress has requested to be examined by a doctor to determine if the skin rash on her abdomen could be attributed to the radiation from the contaminated spot. Region I has contacted the State and is prepared to offer medical consultation to the State, if requested.

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