

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-89-012A

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, Inc. (NPI)
Dickerson, Maryland
Agreement State License

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

Subject: Contaminated Individual With "Hot Particles"

This is to update PNO-I-89-012 which discussed NRC notification by the R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant that on February 23, 1989 an employee of NPI exiting the Ginna Station was found to be contaminated. The Ginna health physics staff identified removable contamination on the individual's clothing including three "hot particles". The New York State Department of Health provided assistance to NRC and Ginna is making additional surveys. Surveys performed on February 24 included the individual's rental car, hotel room and personal belongings as well as Rochester Gas and Electric offices in Rochester, New York. The only additional contamination found was on a pair of slacks and a shirt. Further evaluation of this contamination revealed the presence of hot particles.

On February 28 the Maryland Center for Radiological Health conducted a survey of the NPI employee's residence and automobile. In the automobile, the driver's seat showed a small area of contamination. In the residence, a dining room chair seat and a pair of the employee's gloves showed contamination. In addition, a vacuum cleaner bag and the drain from a washing machine showed some levels of contamination. The vacuum cleaner bag was analyzed further at the State lab and the contamination has been identified as cobalt-60. Contamination levels ranged from 200 DPM to 8,000 DPM.

The State has issued an order today (March 3) which shuts down the NPI facility until the licensee makes modifications to its monitoring equipment and procedures. The State has also received allegations from a former employee of NPI concerning the falsification of water, soil and resin sampling data as well as falsification of exposure data provided to a customer licensee.

Beginning Monday, March 6, the State plans to conduct a full investigation of these allegations and the circumstances regarding the contamination of the NPI employee. Region I has offered to provide any technical assistance that the State may need and will follow the State's investigation closely.

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