

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Paulus

November 21, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF SAFEGUARDS EVENT --PNO-IV-79-16

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

FACILITY: The Mineral Equipment Company
4221 South Main
Salt Lake City, Utah

SUBJECT: UNAUTHORIZED POSSESSION OF CONTAMINATED EQUIPMENT

A recent aerial survey of the old Vitro site identified areas nearby with higher than expected radiation levels. A survey by State of Utah personnel revealed contaminated equipment at the minerals equipment company. The contamination was fixed and consisted of Ra-226, U-238 and other activities at levels up to 3 mR per hour (gamma) at one foot. The owner was unaware that the equipment was contaminated and reported that he gained possession from the Yuba City Uranium Mill in Arizona.

The owner was informed by Region IV that the contamination was considered hazardous waste under the UMTRC act of 1978 and that he must obtain a license or transfer the equipment to an authorized recipient. An IAL was sent to the owner on November 21, 1979 which confirmed the commitments made by the owner.

The incident has received no TV or press coverage.

Region IV will visit the site and review corrective action at a future time.

Region IV (Arlington) received notification of the incident by telephone from the IE:HQ staff on November 20, 1979.

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