

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

August 16, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PN0-79-340

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event of POSSIBLE safety 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 on this date.

Facility: Jersey Central Power and Light Company  
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station  
Forked River, New Jersey  
(Docket No. 50-219)

Subject: UNPLANNED LIQUID RADIOACTIVE RELEASE

On Monday, August 13, 1979, approximately 2300 gallons of rain water, which had collected in the coffer dam surrounding the chromate water storage tank, was erroneously discharged to the station discharge canal at the rate of 2.0 gpm instead of being transferred to the radwaste system. Dilution flowrate at the time was 980,000 gpm. Prior to the discharge, the water had been sampled for chromates and radioactivity. No chromates were identified; gross beta activity was  $2 \times 10^{-5}$  uCi/ml. Resulting release to the environment was less than 0.1% of the Maximum Permissible Concentration (MPC). No license condition appears to have been violated.

An unidentified employee believing that the discharge was improper, notified local press and TV stations of his concerns, resulting in media attention being focused on the plant's operation.

The State of New Jersey has been informed. A press release is planned by the licensee. Region I learned of this event from news media and is responding to inquiries.

NRC, Region I, (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the HQ-DO at 2145 on August 15, 1979, following initial news media inquiries.

This PN is for information only; the release will be reviewed as part of the normal inspection program.

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