

August 8, 1979

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-320

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 basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Consumers Power Company  
Palisades, Covert, Michigan (DN 50-255)

Subject: POSSIBLE LIQUID CONTAINED IN COMPACTED RADIOACTIVE TRASH SHIPMENT

The licensee was informed by Chem Nuclear, Incorporated after working hours on August 7, 1979, that liquid was observed to spill from a 55-gallon drum of compacted trash when it was unloaded at the Barnwell, South Carolina burial site on August 6, 1979.

The licensee has not yet obtained additional information from the Barnwell site regarding this incident. It is not known if the water was contaminated or if any liquid samples were obtained for analysis. A representative of the State of South Carolina was present to examine the shipment on August 7, 1979.

In a telephone conversation with Barnwell site personnel, the NRC Region III office confirmed the above information.

The licensee has not issued a press release.

The NRC Region II Office (Atlanta) was advised of this incident by Region III (Chicago) and will contact the State of South Carolina and Chem Nuclear, Inc. for further details.

A special inspection of this matter will be conducted at Palisades by Region III.

Region III (Chicago) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the NRC Resident Inspector (Palisades) at 9:45 a.m., August 8, 1979. The information is current as of 10:00 a.m., August 8, 1979.

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