

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

20

June 11, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-148

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of 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: Consumers Power Company, Palisades  
(DN 50-255) Covert, Michigan

Subject: GROUND CONTAMINATION AT SITE

Localized ground contamination was discovered on the plant site and plant-owned beach on June 9, 1979, after an estimated two cubic feet of depleted powdex resins from the secondary system full-flow demineralizers was washed by rainfall from a storage bin, through a storm drain to Lake Michigan. Radioactivity levels of the powdex, which resembles a very fine brown sand, were on the order of  $10^{-5}$  uCi/cc. The licensee believes the total potential discharge to the lake to be less than 10 uCi of Co-60 and Cs-137, which would represent a small fraction of release limits for controlled discharges. The plant yard and beach have been cleaned up to background levels with the collected material put into controlled storage.

The State of Michigan was notified and has collected independent samples of soil and water.

The licensee is considering a press release, but no decision had been made at the time of this Preliminary Notification. The NRC does not plan to issue a press release.

The licensee is also rechecking powdex wastes disposed as ordinary trash in past months to verify no contaminated materials were disposed.

Region III was notified of this condition on June 10, with follow-up information received June 11, 1979. This information is current as of 11:30 a.m., June 11, 1979.

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Distribution: Transmitted H St 4.45

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