UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
631 PARK AVENUE
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406

May 11, 1979

Docket No. 50-225

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
ATTN: Dr. R. T. Lahey, Chairman
Department of Nuclear
Engineering and Science
Department of Nuclear Engineering and Science
Troy, New York 12181

Gentlemen:

This Information Notice is provided as an early notification of a possibly significant matter. It is expected that recipients will review the information for possible applicability to their facilities. No specific action or response is requested at this time. If further NRC evaluations so indicate, an IE Circular or Bulletin will be issued to recommend or request specific licensee actions. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

for Robert W. Carlson
Boyce H. Grier
Director

Enclosure: IE Information Notice No. 79-12

cc w/encls:
Dr. D. R. Harris, Facility Director
Dr. S. E. Wiberley, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

IE Information Notice No. 79-12
Date: May 11, 1979
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ATTEMPTED DAMAGE TO NEW FUEL ASSEMBLIES

This Notice provides information concerning the surreptitous introduction of a possibly damaging liquid into the new fuel storage pool at the Virginia Electric and Power Company, Surry Power Station in Surry County, Virginia.

On Monday, May 7, 1979, while conducting inspections of new fuel for Unit 2, the licensee found that plastic protective liners on 62 of 64 assemblies had been tampered with. Further inspection revealed that a white crystalline substance had been poured onto the assemblies. Preliminary analysis by VEPCO indicates that the substance is sodium hydroxide. The new fuel is stored in the Fuel Building, an area which is locked and alarmed, and to which access is controlled by the issuance of specially coded access cards. These cards are issued after the successful completion of a background screening program for both Virginia Electric and Power Company and contractor personnel.

The FBI is presently on-site conducting an extensive investigation. Westinghouse, the fuel vendor, is assisting in the evaluation of possible fuel damage.

This event could possibly provoke similar behavior on the part of other persons. Consequently, you should be aware of such an eventuality. At this time the NRC is not placing additional requirements on you, but is advising that extra caution be exercised in your existing security program.

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No written response to this Information Notice is required.

Enclosure: List of IE Information Notices
Issued in 1979

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LISTING OF IE INFORMATION NOTICES ISSUED IN 1979

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date Issued	Issued To
79-01	Bergen-Paterson Hydraulic Shock and Sway Arrestor	2/2/79	All power reactor facilities with an Operating License (OL) or Construction Permit (CP)
79-02	Attempted Extortion - Low Enriched Uranium	2/2/79	All Fuel Facilities
79-03	Limitorque Valve Geared Limit Switch Lubricant	2/9/79	All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP
79-04	Degradation of Engineered Safety Features	2/16/79	All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP
79-05	Use of Improper Materials in Safety-Related Components	3/21/79	All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP
79-06	Stress Analysis of Safety-Related Piping	3/23/79	All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP
79-07	Rupture of Radwaste Tanks	3/26/79	All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP
79-08	Interconnection of Contaminated Systems with Service Air Systems Used As the Source of Breathing Air	3/28/79	All power reactor facilities with an OL and Pu Processing fuel facilities
79-09	Spill of Radioactively Contaminated Resin	3/30/79	All power reactor facilities with an OL
79-10	Nonconforming Pipe Support Struts	4/16/79	All power reactor facilities with a CP
79-11	Lower Reactor Vessel Head Insulation Support Problem	5/7/79	All power reactor facilities with an OL or CP