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NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

June 11, 1981

NOTICE OF NON-ROUTINE EVENT INVOLVING AGREEMENT STATE OR AGREEMENT MATERIALS-- RII-81-42

This NOTICE constitutes an early report of events occurring in an Agreement State 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 State Agreements Program staff as of this date.

AGREEMENT STATE: Tennessee

FACILITY: Tennessee Nuclear Specialties, Inc.
Jonesboro, Tennessee

SUBJECT: MEDIA INTEREST IN ALLEDGED UNSAFE WOPKING CONDITIONS

On or about May 1, the Union at TNS, Inc. went on strike and subsequently sent a mailgram complaint to the State of Tennessee alleging unsafe working conditions at the plant. Upon receipt of the mailgram the State investigated the complaint, mailed a reply to the Union, and cited the licensee for inadequate controls over airborne uranium inside the plant. Workers inside the plant normally wear respirators and do not appear to have been exposed to hazardous concentrations of airborne uranium. The State is continuing its evaluation of occupational exposures at the plant and has placed the licensee on a six-month inspection frequency. A State representative stated that the investigation found nothing that would prevent the workers from going back to work.

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