PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: January 24, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-III-80-18

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 as of this date.

POOR ORIGINAL

FACILITY: Port of Columbus Airport

SUBJECT: CRASH OF AIRPLANE CARRYING BYPRODUCT MATERIAL ON JANUARY 24, 1980

At 2:45 a.m. (Ohio time) a two-engine Cessna 421 crashed and burned on take-off killing the pilot, the only person on board. The cargo included a New England Nuclear (Massachusetts) shipment of non-human use chromium-51, 2 millicuries, and human use gallium-67, 6 millicuries. Chromium 51 is byproduct material and as such is NRC regulated, Gallium-67 is accelerator produced and is not NRC regulated. The destination of the shipment was to hospitals in Kentucky. The crash site is south of a Port of Columbus runway in an adjacent open area owned by Rockwell International.

The State of Ohio Disaster Services Agency was notified of the accident and is presently responding to perform radiation surveys of the crash site to determine if the radioactive material is intact or incinerated. RIII is continuing to follow the matter through the State of Ohio.

The small quantities of radioactive material involved do not constitute a health hazard.

There was news media interest in the Columbus area of this accident based on the plane crash. NRC, Region III, Chicago is not planning to issue a press release.

Department of Energy-Chicago Operations Office and the Federal Aviation Administration have been notified of the accident.

NRC, Region III, Chicago was notified of this accident at 9:40 a.m. (Chicago time) on January 24, 1980. This information is current as of 11:00 a.m. on January 24, 1980.

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