



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION V

SUITE 202, WALNUT CREEK PLAZA  
1990 N. CALIFORNIA BOULEVARD  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596

May 10, 1979

Docket No. 50-326

University of California, Irvine  
Department of Chemistry  
Irvine, California 92717

Attention: J. L. McGaugh  
Vice Chancellor

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 the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

Sincerely,

  
R. H. Engelken  
Director

Enclosure:  
IE Information Notice  
No. 79-12

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT  
20555

May 10, 1979

IE Information Notice No. 79-12

ATTEMPTED DAMAGE TO NEW FUEL ASSEMBLIES

This Notice provides information concerning the surreptitious 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.

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 of 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 questions regarding the matter, please contact the Director of the appropriate NRC Regional Office.

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 OL or a CP
79-02	Attempted Extortion - Low Enriched Uranium	2/2/79	All Fuel Facilities
79-03	Limatorque Valve Geared Limit Switch Lubricant	2/9/79	All power reactor facilities with an OL or a CP
79-04	Degradation of Engineered Safety Features	2/16/79	All power reactor facilities with an OL or a 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 Holders of Reactor 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

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