

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

March 27, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-80-48

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an 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 as of this date

FACILITY: U.S. Department of Energy
Inactive Municipal Well
Adele, Georgia

SUBJECT: UNRETRIEVED WELL LOGGING SOURCE

Bendix Field Engineering Company, a prime contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) has for the past week been unable to recover a one curie Americium-Beryllium well logging source from the bottom of a 900 foot inactive municipal well near Adele, Georgia. Bendix appears to be exempt from NRC licensing under 10 CFR 30.12 in the conduct of uranium resource exploration for USDOE. Region II has verified the exemption status of the radioactive material with the USDOE in Grand Junction County, where Project Officer (J. Ellis) stated that the source was owned and used by a DOE contractor.

Media interest may be expected, partly because of the recent discovery of high radium content in other municipal wells in southern Georgia, and because of limited local familiarity with nuclear well logging operations. No press release is planned at this time. The State of Georgia and the USEPA have been notified.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from J. Setser, DNR, State of Georgia at 0915 on March 27, 1980. This information is current as of 0800 on March 28, 1980.

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