

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: August 29, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-80-125

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 on this date.

Facility: Commercial Waste Disposal Company  
Baldwin Borough, Pennsylvania

Subject: TRANSPORTATION INCIDENT

At 1:30 p.m., August 29, 1980 the Region I Office received inquiries from the press about a fire involving a commercial garbage truck which contained radioactive material. Contacts with local police and a representative of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania revealed that the truck was discovered to have contained numerous toxic substances, such as mercury and cyanide, as well as four ounces of uranyl acetate. Sixteen people have reportedly been taken to a local hospital to be checked for cyanide poisoning. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has dispatched an inspector from the Bureau of Radiological Health office in nearby Pittsburgh and will report his findings to the Regional Office as soon as they are available. No significant radiological hazard is associated with this quantity of uranyl acetate. The Regional Office is responding to media inquiries.

This Preliminary Notification is issued for information only and no further action by IE is anticipated.

Contact: F. Costello, 488-1353 G. H. Smith, 488-1200

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