

November 29, 1989

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-89-67

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region IV staff on this date.

FACILITY: Wrangler Laboratories, Larsen Laboratories, Orion Chemical Company and John P. Larsen	Licensee Emergency Classification: <input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event <input type="checkbox"/> Alert <input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency <input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
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SUBJECT: DEPLETED URANIUM CONTAMINATION FOUND AT RESIDENCE VACATED BY JOHN P. LARSEN

The state of Utah Bureau of Radiation Control notified Region IV on November 28, 1989, that they have found depleted uranium (DU) contamination in a Provo, Utah, residence recently vacated by John P. Larsen. Mr. Larsen is the owner of Wrangler Laboratories, Larsen Laboratories, and Orion Chemical Company; NRC general licensees which have pending before the ASLBP a decision concerning the NRC's revocation of Mr. Larsen's general licenses for use of DU in Wyoming (ASLBP No. 84-582-01 SC). Mr. Larsen also possesses a specific source material license in Utah which is under suspension.

The contamination was first identified by a private health physicist who was contacted by the new owners of the residence after they found papers marked "uranium" in the house. The state confirmed that removable alpha contamination up to 800 dpm/100 cm² existed in the garage and basement. Higher levels of beta-gamma contamination were found and are still being assessed. The state also found small quantities of yellow crystals believed to be a DU compound. The state believes the basement area may have been used as a uranium processing laboratory. In addition to the residual contamination found at the residence, the state measured DU contamination well above background on several articles of refuse removed from the house by a neighbor who assisted Mr. Larsen in his move. Contamination was also found on the neighbor's truck. The contaminated areas have been isolated and further surveys and urine bioassay samples will be performed by the state to better characterize the problem.

The NRC has not issued a press release.

Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans to issue a press release.

The state has been informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the state of Utah at 1:00 p.m. on November 28, 1989. Region IV has informed OGC.

This information has been confirmed with a state representative.

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(5520: 11/29/89 @ 1:14 p.m.
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