

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: October 28, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-80-139C

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: UNC Recovery Systems
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island
DN 70-820
License No. SNM-777

Subject: SHIPMENT OF LOW LEVEL WASTE WITH 55-GALLON DRUM LEAKING LIQUID

Region I inspectors have completed the inspection of the contents of six trailers used to carry wooden boxes and 55 gallon steel drums containing low level radioactive waste from the United Nuclear Corporation facility at Wood River Junction, Rhode Island. The conditions noted are given in the table below.

Table with 8 columns: Trailer Number, Location Stopped, Number Shipped, Drums Number Opened, Leakers, Boxes Number Shipped, Boxes Number Opened, Leakers. Rows 1-6 detailing inspection results for trailers in Nevada, Illinois, and Connecticut.

No problems were encountered with containers holding lagoon waste which had been processed through the filtration equipment. Leaking drums contained lagoon waste which was loaded directly into the drums without being processed through the filtration process. Leaking boxes contained pieces of lagoon liners which were not dried before being placed into the wooden boxes.

Eight of the sixty drums containing unprocessed lagoon waste contained free liquid on the top, and the Nevada license does not allow unsolidified liquid to be buried at the Beatty site. Two of the boxes containing lagoon liners also contained liquid found when holes were drilled in the bottom of the boxes.

Evidence of leakage was found on the floors of the three trailers involved with leaking containers. Essentially no contamination was found on the floors of the three trailers.

The State of Rhode Island has been provided with the above information and plans to issue a press release. It is expected that the State of Rhode Island will make additional demands on the NRC to control the UNC waste processing and packaging operations. Region I is issuing a press release on this subject on October 28, 1980.

This information is current as of 10:00 AM, October 28, 1980.

Contact: W. W. Kinney 488-1213, R. J. Bores 488-1260

DISTRIBUTION: (Facsimile Transmission Times Noted)

H ST BLDG 11:37
Chairman Ahearne

Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Bradford
Commissioner Hendrie
ACRS
S. J. Chilk, SECY
C. C. Kammerer, CA
(For Distribution)

PHILLIPS BLDG 12:55
H. R. Denton, NRR
R. H. Vollmer, NRR
R. J. Mattson, NRR
D. F. Ross, NRR
D. Eisenhut, NRR
S. H. Hanauer, NRR

MARYLAND NATIONAL
BANK BUILDING 12:47
W. J. Dircks, EDO
C. Michelson, AEOD
J. J. Fouchard, PA
N. M. Haller, MPA
R. G. Ryan, OSP
H. K. Shapar, ELD

WILLSTE BLDG 12:52
J. G. Davis, NMSS
R. Budnitz, RES

LANDOW BLDG (Fax by HQ)
(6 MIN/PAGE)
J. J. Cummings, OIA

IE:XOOS 11:35
NRC/TMI Program
Office 1:19

Region II 1:00
Region III 1:50
Region IV 1:34
Region V 1:15

RI Resident Sites

(MAIL)
R. Minogue, SD
IE:XOOS
Document Mgt. Br.
(For PDR/LPDR)