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Date: July 24, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURENCE--PNO-III-8C -138

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 as of this date.

Facility: Public Service of Indiana  
Marble Hill, Units 1 and 2  
Docket Nos. 50-546, 50-547

Subject: NEWS ARTICLE ON "CONGRESSIONAL INFLUENCE" AFFECTING MARBLE HILL INVESTIGATION

The Indianapolis Star, dated July 24, 1980, carried an article on the Grand Jury inquiry into construction problems at the Marble Hill Nuclear Power Station construction site in Indiana.

The article makes a statement, attributed to a Region III (Chicago) inspector, that the Department of Justice investigation resulted from political pressure and Congressional influence. The inspector talked to the Indianapolis Star reporter before entering the Grand Jury Room. He is further quoted as saying that the NRC could handle the construction problems involved at Marble Hill without referring them to the Department of Justice.

The inspector feels that his statements were taken out of context and do not fully portray his discussions with the reporter. The article does not differentiate between the technical problems involved — which were discussed by the inspector — and the possible violation of federal statutes — which is the subject of the Grand Jury investigation.

The Regional Office recieved a telephone call July 24 from the U. S. Attorney's office in Indianapolis. The Assistant U. S. Attorney indicated the quoted comments may adversely affect the Department of Justice proceeding.

The PN is being issued because of the widespread interest in the Marble Hill site. Other Indiana and Kentucky news media have carried articles on the ongoing Grand Jury investigation but they apparently did not include the "influence" comments. As of 2:30 p.m. the Regional Office had not received any news media inquiries on the Star article.

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The State of Indiana will be notified.

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