

Steve Scott

DEC 9 1980
December 9, 1980

NOTICE OF NON-ROUTINE EVENT INVOLVING AGREEMENT STATE OR
AGREEMENT MATERIALS - 80-40

This NOTICE constitutes an early report of events occurring in an Agreement State 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 State Agreements Program staff as of this date.

AGREEMENT STATE: Maryland

FACILITY: Neutron Products, Inc.

SUBJECT: Radioactivity in an Unrestricted Area

On December 2, 1980, OSP was informed by Region I of inquiries they had received about a meeting in Dickerson, Md. on December 4, 1980 concerning the finding of radiation hot spots around the Neutron Products, Inc. plant in Dickerson, Md. OSP called Maryland and obtained the following information on December 2 and 3, 1980.

Neutron Products, Inc. (NPI) operates a facility licensed by Maryland in Dickerson, Md. Their primary licensed activity is the manufacture of large cobalt 60 sealed sources for use in teletherapy units.

The State had received anonymous telephone complaints in November concerning radioactivity on NPI property. State radiation surveys were conducted on November 17 and 20, 1980. No unusual levels were detected off-site. On November 23, 1980, a local resident, using a borrowed survey meter conducted radiation surveys around the plant and found a hot spot on the railroad right-of-way adjacent to the plant. The hot spot was subsequently removed by NPI and is in their possession. It reportedly reads 60 mR/hr at contact. The isotope is not known. It is not clear if the source is a discrete source or soil contamination. On November 24, 1980, the resident reported his finding to the Maryland Division of Radiation Control. Because of the absence of key personnel and lack of communications, no action was taken by the State until the following week.

Local residents have scheduled a meeting for December 4, 1980. NPI and State representatives will attend. The State will perform additional radiation surveys around the plant. At OSP's request, IE (Region II) is loaning specialized radiation survey equipment to the State to supplement their own. The State will also conduct an isotope analysis of the hot spot activity.

OSP has expressed its concern to the State over the original handling of the residents' report and will discuss the matter with Maryland officials.

There has been local media interest.

Contact: J. O. Lubenau, L. Bolling - 492-7767

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Non-Routine Event 80-40
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