

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: December 1, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-80-167A

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: Undeveloped Land
Rochelle Park
New Jersey

Subject: RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL IN AN UNRESTRICTED AREA (UPDATE)

This updates PNO-I-80-167 to include information available at 2:00 p.m., December 1, 1980.

The investigation to determine the source and extent of radioactive contamination in an area near Route 17 in Rochelle Park, New Jersey continues. It appears that activities of the Maywood Chemical/Stepan Chemical Companies, which occurred prior to AEC/NRC licensing (1954), may be the source of the radioactive material but this has not been definitely established at this time. The Maywood Chemical Company processed source material from the turn of the century until its takeover by the Stepan Chemical Company. A meeting is scheduled for the evening of December 3, 1980 with the mayors of Maywood and Rochelle Park, a representative of the New Jersey Bureau of Radiation Protection and Stepan Chemical to inform the local officials of the findings thus far and the NRC's plans for further surveys, including an overflight to determine the extent of offsite contamination.

Region I has received inquiries from the New York Times and expects the paper to publish a story on the subject on December 2, 1980. Region I plans to issue a press release.

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