

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

May 18, 1981



PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-81-35

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event of POSSIBLE public interest. 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: Atlantic Research Corporation
Alexandria, Virginia
License No. 45-02808-02 (terminated)

SUBJECT: CONTAMINATED AREA AT ATLANTIC RESEARCH CORPORATION FACILITY NEAR ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

The subject facility was licensed to use strontium-90 15 years ago. Strontium has not been used in recent years. The owner, Atlantic Research Corporation, during an ongoing program of decontamination, discovered an additional area of low level contamination in soil and small trees immediately adjacent to the outfall of a pipe connected to a concrete tank which previously served the facility. The contamination is confined to the restricted area.

On May 15, 1981, two Region II inspectors conducted surveys, collected samples and evaluated the overall situation. There appears to be no public safety problem. Radiation Management Corporation is consultant to Atlantic Research Corporation in the decontamination program. Region II personnel is pursuing this matter with the licensee and their consultant.

Region II discussed this matter with the Commonwealth of Virginia. EPA has been notified. Media interest may develop but is considered unlikely at this time.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by telephone on May 13, 1981, by Atlantic Research.

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