

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Director, SD Document Management Branch

Date: May 7, 1981

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-III-81-46

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: Union Electric Company
Labadie, Missouri
License No. 24-02020-02

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE OVEREXPOSURE TO MAINTENANCE MEN



Region III (Chicago) was informed by Headquarters Duty Officer on May 6, 1981, at 8:00 PM of an apparent overexposure to three maintenance men at a coal fired power plant in Labadie, Missouri.

The maintenance men had been retiling twelve coal bins during the past three weeks. Each coal bin has one Industrial Nucleonics level gauge containing 1.5 curies of cesium-137. The licensee estimates that each man spent approximately 20 hours total in the bins while the sources were exposed. The men had not been issued film badges, which are not required by this license. While the maximum dose was initially estimated at 70 rems, a more realistic maximum appears to be 20 rems. Due to the configuration of the radiation beam, the dose might actually have been much less.

Region III is conducting an inspection regarding this possible overexposure.

Neither the licensee nor NRC plans a press release at this time.

The State of Missouri has been informed.

NRC, RIII, received notification of this occurrence by telephone 8:00 PM on May 6, 1981. This information is current as of 11:00 AM, May 7, 1981.

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