

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Northern States Power Company  
Monticello Nuclear Power Station  
Monticello, Minnesota  
Docket No. 50-263

Licensee Emergency Classification:  
\_\_\_\_ Notification of Unusual Event  
\_\_\_\_ Alert  
\_\_\_\_ Site Area Emergency  
\_\_\_\_ General Emergency  
X Not Applicable

Subject: UNAUTHORIZED REMOVAL OF RADWASTE FROM SITE

On November 3, 1981, 28 drums of LSA radwaste packaged for shipment, were mistakenly placed on an empty contractor trailer instead of the licensee's radwaste storage trailer located nearby. On November 4, 1981, the contractor trailer, which had been rented, was returned to the rental company located in New Brighton, MN. Upon discovery of the error, the licensee attempted to retrieve the drums on the evening of November 4, 1981, but the rental company was closed. On the morning of November 5, 1981, the licensee transferred the drums to a Northern States Power Company trailer and returned them to the site.

There does not appear to have been any significant personnel radiation exposures or offsite contamination. The maximum radiation level on contract with the trailer was 40 millirems per hour and the radiation level in the driver's location was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  millirems per hour. According to licensee inventory records, the maximum exposure rate on contact with any drum was 150 millirems per hour. Total activity in the 28 drums was approximately 0.3 curies.

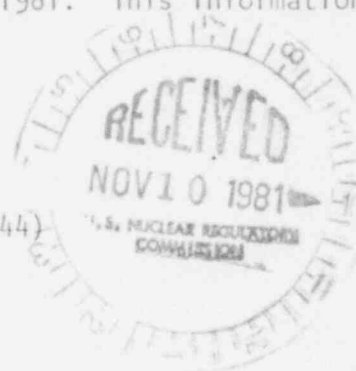
A Region-based Radiation Specialist is onsite following this matter. Appropriate enforcement action will be taken.

The licensee is issuing a news release; Region III (Chicago) will respond to inquiries. The State of Minnesota was notified.

Region III received initial notification of this event by telephone from the Resident Inspector at approximately 5:00 p.m. (CST) on November 4, 1981. This information is current as of 1:30 p.m. on November 5, 1981.

Contact: D. E. Miller (384-2634)

L. R. Greger (384-2644)



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PDR I&E  
PNO-III-81-095 PDR

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Licensee (Corporate Office) 3:10

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