

Date: March 15, 1993

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN39315B

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 the Region III staff on this date.

Facility:
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Licensee Emergency Classification
☐ General Emergency
☐ Site Area Emergency
☐ Alert
☐ Unusual Event
☒ N/A

License No. 21-00021-29

Subject: CARBON-14 CONTAMINATION OF CYCLOTRON BUILDING (SECOND UPDATE)

On March 12, 1993, Region III (Chicago) completed its initial review of the licensee's response to the carbon-14 contamination incident in the Cyclotron Building. The special inspection team held an exit meeting with the licensee that was open to the public.

Most areas of the Cyclotron Building have been decontaminated and the special access restrictions have been lifted. The cyclotron target area where the carbon-14 target had been stored remains contaminated and access to the area is restricted.

Surveys of locations used by the researcher involved in the contamination have identified two additional contaminated locations -- one home visited by the researcher and the rental car he used while in the East Lansing area.

A desk in the home was found to be contaminated with up to 140,000 disintegrations per minute (DPM) per 100 square centimeters. It was successfully decontaminated and several personal items, which were also contaminated, were collected by the licensee.

The rental car had carbon-14 contamination on its seats, in the trunk, and at other locations. It was successfully decontaminated by the licensee. Two rental firm employees had low level contamination on their coats. The coats were decontaminated and surveys of the two workers' homes showed no contamination.

Areas surveyed and found to have no evidence of contamination included the two aircraft on which the researcher traveled; the airport gate area; five other homes visited by the researcher; two restaurants visited by the researcher; and the home of a custodian at the cyclotron building who had contamination on his work clothing.

The Region III special inspection will continue this week focusing on the licensee's handling of radioactive material in the Cyclotron Building and on the root cause of the contamination incident. The inspectors will also perform additional surveys to confirm the adequacy of the licensee's decontamination activities.

9303220022 930315
PDR I&E
PNO-III-93-015 PDR

IE34 1/0

Date: March 15, 1993

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN39315B

- 2 -

The State of Michigan will be informed of this updated information.

This information is current as of 4 p.m. on March 15, 1993.

CONTACT:

Gary Shear
708/790-5620

Roy Caniano
708/790-5612

DISTRIBUTION:

STANDARD E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION

FAX TO:

INPO _____ NSAC _____
LIC _____ NRC OPS CTR 10:09
PDR (8/634-3343) 10:03 OIG 9:58
A. Byrdsong, NRR _____
State: (MI) _____

MAIL TO:

DCS (Orig)
DOT
(Trans)