

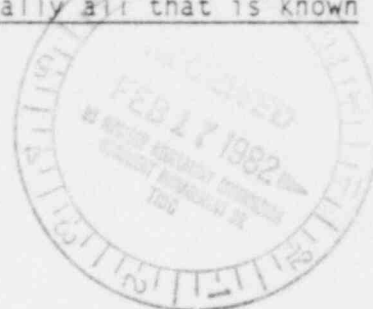
Date: July 16, 1981

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-81-79

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: Union Carbide Corporation  
Medical Products Division  
Tuxedo, New York  
(DN 70-687)

Subject: SOUTH CAROLINA SUSPENDS LICENSEE SHIPMENTS OF  
RADIOACTIVE WASTE FOR BURIAL



On July 13, 1981 the State of South Carolina imposed a suspension, of not less than 30 days, on the transportation of radioactive waste material into the State of South Carolina for burial at the Barnwell low level waste burial site by the licensee. The licensee was also assessed a civil penalty of \$3,500 by the State of South Carolina.

These actions were taken by the State of South Carolina after a wooden crate in a shipment, which arrived at the burial site on June 29, 1981 was found with an open seam. Contaminated solid material had been released onto the floor of the truck, and thus the crate was no longer a strong, tight container. Radiation levels on the under surface of the vehicle were found to be in excess of 200 mR/hr (280 mR/hr was measured). The wooden crate, containing approximately 167 millicuries of mixed fission products of waste material, was repaired by personnel at the burial site and was buried.

The licensee was informed of this incident by Barnwell on July 1, 1981 and by the State of South Carolina on July 13, 1981. Licensee management is meeting with the State of South Carolina today (July 16, 1981) in Columbia, South Carolina to discuss long term corrective actions.

Media interest is expected because the states with burial grounds publicize such state enforcement actions. A press release is not planned by the licensee nor NRC at this time.

This PN is issued for information only. This incident will be reviewed by Region I. The State of New York has been notified.

Region I received notification of the occurrence by telephone from Region II at 3:30 p.m. on July 15, 1981 and is current as of 4:15 p.m. on July 15, 1981.

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PDR I&E  
PNO-I-81-079 PDR

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Region I Form 83a  
(Rev. January 1981)

IE 34  
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DISTRIBUTION: (Facsimile Transmission Times Noted)

H ST BLDG 9:53  
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 Commissioner Bradford  
 Commissioner Gilinsky  
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 H. K. Shapar, ELD

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 R. J. Mattson, NRR  
 D. Eisenhut, NRR  
 S. H. Hanauer, NRR

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 L. I. Cobb, IE

MARYLAND NATIONAL  
 BANK BUILDING 10:39  
 W. J. Dircks, EDO  
 E. Michelson, AEOD  
 J. J. Fouchard, PA  
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WILLSTE BLDG 10:43  
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AIR RIGHTS BLDG 10:36  
 G. W. Kerr, SP

LANDOW BLDG \_\_\_\_\_  
 (6 MIN/PAGE)  
 J. J. Cummings, OIA

OFFICES

NRC/TMI Program Office 11:03  
 Region II 10:51  
 Region III 10:54  
 Region IV 10:57  
 Region V 11:09  
 NSAC (power reactors only) \_\_\_\_\_  
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RI Resident Sites

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(MAIL)

IE:TAS  
 ADM:Document Mgt. Br.  
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