DCS No: 3012023820901
Date: September 1, 1982

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-82-57A

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 I staff on this date.

Facility: Consolidated Coal Company
Library, Pennsylvania
License No. 37-16998-01
Field Site: Jollytown, Pennsylvania

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

Subject: Possible Rupture of Americium-241 Well Logging Sealed Sources

As reported in PNO-I-82-57, on September 1, 1982, Region I received telephone notification that licensee representatives suspect that one or both of two americium-241 berylium sealed sources (250 millicuries each), lost down a well during well logging operations, may have been ruptured during recovery operations. On September 1, 1982, a Pennsylvania State inspector visited the site and found contamination as high as 10 millirem per hour in a small area of drilling mud. Samples were analyzed and confirmed to be Am-241. The licensee had taken steps to isolate and impound this contamination.

On September 2, 1982, a Region I inspector visited the site and found spots of contamination in an area about 50 yards by 100 yards near the drilling rig. While some spots were as high as 6 millirem per hour at contact, most spots were less than 1 millirem per hour. Drilling equipment was also contaminated to levels of 500-3000 disintegrations per minute per hundred square centimeters. Two trucks and the gloves, shirts and shoes of several workers were contaminated to similar levels, but no skin contamination has been found on any person. A drilling rig recently moved to a new location has similar contamination levels. The licensee confiscated all contaminated clothing and equipment and has posted a guard to prevent access to both drilling sites. The NRC inspector and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania inspectors are conducting surveys of residences and public locations visited by the site workers to assess whether any contamination has been spread to these areas. The licensee plans to engage a qualified consultant to plan the decontamination effort.

Region I will issue a press release as soon as sufficient data is gathered concerning possible off-site contamination.

This information is current as of 10:00 p.m., September 2, 1982.

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Region I Form 83
(Rev. April 1982)

Licensee: N/A
(Reactor Licensees)

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