

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

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:
 Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

Subject: POSSIBLE RUPTURE OF AMERICIUM-241 WELL LOGGING SEALED SOURCES UPDATE

As reported in PNO-I-82-57 and 57A, licensee representatives suspect that one or both of two americium-241 beryllium sealed sources (250 millicuries each), lost down a well during well logging operations, were ruptured during recovery operations. Americium-241 contamination was found on the drilling equipment and in an area about 50 yards by 100 yards near the drilling rig. A drilling rig recently moved to a new location also is contaminated. The contamination was apparently carried to the surface in the drilling mud. Heavy rains have contributed to the spread of the contamination in the immediate area. A licensee constructed impoundment is preventing further spread. The licensee has posted guards to prevent access to both drilling sites.

Licensee representatives, the licensee's consultant, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and NRC inspectors have identified and surveyed about 20 persons who have been on the sites or in contact with material removed from the sites. All persons, their private residences or motel rooms and all vehicles have been surveyed. Gloves, shirts and shoes have been found contaminated with up to 3000 disintegrations per minute per hundred square centimeters. Two trucks are contaminated with similar levels. Two small spots of contamination were found in a motel room. These were associated with dirt and were easily removed. No personnel contamination has been identified. The licensee is preparing a list of other places visited by these persons and plans to survey all appropriate places. The licensee expects to complete the surveys and decontamination of all areas away from the drilling sites by midnight September 7, 1982.

The licensee issued a press release on September 4, 1982. Region I has responded to several media inquiries. This information is current as of 11:00 a.m., September 7, 1982.

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