

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-90-83

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:
Wyman-Gordon
North Grafton, Massachusetts 01536

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

Subject: MEDIA INTEREST IN ON-SITE BURIAL OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL AT AN NRC LICENSED LOCATION

On September 14, 1990, Region I received a request for information from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region I regarding on-site burial of radioactive waste (thorium-magnesium and depleted uranium) at Wyman-Gordon, North Grafton, Massachusetts. This company is currently licensed by NRC to possess radioactive material in gauges. The EPA representative stated that the reason for their request was that they had received a media inquiry concerning burial of radioactive waste at Wyman-Gordon from a local newspaper.

The EPA representative asked that Region I research information in its files to determine whether any radioactive materials had been buried on-site by Wyman-Gordon.

The license which authorized the buried material is terminated and predates NRC computerized recordkeeping, since the last burial occurred in 1962 and likely occurred pursuant to Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) regulations (10 CFR 20.304, since deleted).

Region I contacted Wyman-Gordon on September 14, 1990 to determine if they had information concerning the burial of radioactive material on-site. On September 18, 1990, a Wyman-Gordon representative provided the following information:

1. Burial of radioactive material occurred from 1958 to 1962 at two Wyman-Gordon locations, one in North Grafton, Massachusetts, the other in Worcester, Massachusetts.
2. The waste is magnesium-thorium scrap (2-3% thorium, 97-98% magnesium). Apparently, no depleted uranium was buried.

This PN is being issued because of recent media attention in the local area.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been notified. Region I has responded to media inquiries. Region I will determine if additional action by NRC is necessary.

This information is current as of September 24, 1990 at 12:00 Noon.

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