

September 30, 1982

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-82-105

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 II staff on this date.

FACILITY: Kentucky Licensee  
McGinnis Mine  
Docket No. N/A  
Sydney, Kentucky

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

SUBJECT: MISSING COAL LOGGING SOURCE

Commonwealth of Virginia officials are scheduled today (September 30) to decide on search methods of a Norfolk and Western coal car, sidetracked at Roanoke, Virginia, for a 100-millicurie Cesium-137 mine logging source, missing from a coal mine at Sydney, Kentucky. The car may be returned to the mine for examination.

Region II was notified at 4:10 p.m. on September 29 by the Ohmert Corporation of Cincinnati, manufacturer of the source, that officials of the McGinnis Mine, of which Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L) is majority owner, discovered the source missing on September 25. A search of the mine, its preparation plant and slag dump was conducted while a 100-car coal train, bound for CP&L's Roxboro, North Carolina, fossil power plant, was being loaded. After three days, while the search of the mine premises was continuing, a Kentucky inspector, by whose state the source is licensed, detected a "slightly elevated" (twice background) level of radiation in one area of one coal car. Since the mine area search was incomplete, the train was dispatched to the Roxboro destination.

When the search in Kentucky failed to locate the source, CP&L and Virginia officials decided to sidetrack the suspected coal car at Roanoke, Virginia, on September 29 to conduct today's search.

The source is contained in an unshielded, stainless steel cylinder approximately 3/4-inch in diameter and two inches long. An individual standing one meter from the source would receive a radiation dose of about 30 millirem per hour. No immediate health threat exists.

If located, the source will be returned to its owner or disposed of according to required procedures. If not located, Region II radiation specialists say the source poses no health threat if burned with the coal at the Roxboro plant.

Region II officials are maintaining contact with appropriate counterparts in Kentucky, Virginia and North Carolina.

Media interest has occurred. No press release has been issued, but Region II and Virginia officials are responding to media inquiries.

Region II (Atlanta) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from Ohmert Corporation at 4:10 p.m. (EDT) on September 29.

This information is current as of 11 a.m. (EDT) on September 30.

8210050224 820930  
PDR I&E  
PNO-II-82-105 PDR

Contact: J. Potter, RII 242-5536

A. Gibson, RII 242-5525

DISTRIBUTION:

H. Street

Chairman Palladino

Comm. Gilinsky

Comm. Ahearne

Comm. Roberts

Comm. Asselstine

SECY

ACRS

CA

PDR

MNBB

EDO

PA

MPA

ELD

Phillips

NRR 1:20

Air Rights

SP

E/W

IE

OIA

AEOD

INPO

NSAC

Willste

NMSS

RES

MAIL:

ADM:DMB

DOT: Trans Only

Applicable State

Regions: 2:05  
Licensee: 2:25  
(Reactor Licensees)  
Applicable Resident Site

DMB  
(IE-34)