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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-94-34

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 III staff on this date.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Iowa Electric Light & Power Company	General Emergency
Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC)	Site Area Emergency
Palo, Iowa	Alert
	Unusual Event
	X Not Applicable

Docket No. 50-331

Subject: EMPTY RADIOACTIVE POLY TANK (10,500 GALLON) KNOCKED OFF TRUCK ONTO HIGHWAY DURING SHIPPING FROM DAEC TO BARNWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA

On May 4, 1994, at approximately 6:45 p.m., a placarded flatbed truck carrying two empty poly tanks (10,500 gallon capacity each) from the Duane Arnold plant failed to clear an overpass near the intersection of Interstate highways 280 and 80 near Davenport, Iowa. One tank was knocked off the truck and rolled onto the right shoulder of the road. Both tanks were empty and no contamination problems were identified. Both tanks were labeled "Radioactive LSA," and contained fixed internal contamination between 10,000 and 120,000 dpm/100 cm², and had external (contact) radiation readings between 7 to 10 mrem/hr. Davenport fire department and HAZMAT team responded to the accident, as well as the State Police. The Iowa Department of Public Health and the Duane Arnold Radiation Protection Manager also responded to the accident. The tank did not rupture and apparently suffered no significant damage.

The tanks had previously contained a Glycol-Water mixture, used during Duane Arnold's 1993 outage. The tanks were purchased by Chem Nuclear and were being shipped to their Barnwell, South Carolina facility. The tanks were loaded at Duane Arnold and the carrier, Tri-State Motor Transit Company, had apparently received permission from the Department of Transportation for the overheight (15 ft 3 in) shipment. The shipment was preceded by an escort car carrying a vertical pole, about shipment height. Apparently the pole failed to clear the overpass, but why the shipment truck did not stop is still being investigated.

The tank was reloaded and the truck was moved to the shipper's facility in Davenport, Iowa. The Duane Arnold radwaste supervisor was sent to this facility to inspect the tanks prior to continuing shipment. The Iowa Department of Public Health has notified the State of Illinois and the Iowa Department of Transportation. There has been local media interest.

The NRC HQ Operations Center was notified on May 4, 1994 at 9:05 p.m. (CDT) by staff at the Duane Arnold Energy Center. The Region III State Agreements Officer was notified of the incident on May 4, 1994 at 9:35 p.m. (CDT) by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

The U. S. Department of Transportation has been notified and the Federal Highway Administration is investigating this matter. This information is current as of 11:00 a.m. on May 5, 1994.

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