

December 13, 1990

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-90-78

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: Tennessee River Scrap Company
Calvert City, Kentucky

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

SUBJECT: POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATED SCRAP SHIPMENT

Representatives of the Kentucky Health Department advised Region II that a load of scrap materials was shipped by barge from the Tennessee River Scrap Company, Calvert City, Kentucky to a scrap dealer in Blytheville, Arkansas.

Shortly after off-loading of the scrap was initiated, radiation monitors alarmed at the Blytheville facility. The material was loaded back onto the barge and returned to the Tennessee River Scrap facility in Kentucky. The Tennessee River Scrap Company originally received this material from Tri-State Industrial Services, Paducah, Kentucky.

Currently, the State of Kentucky has two inspectors at the Tennessee River Scrap facility who are performing surveys and evaluating the situation. Representatives of Tri-State Industrial Services are also accompanying the State inspectors.

A Kentucky environmental group, Natural Resources, advised numerous State agencies of this incident, including the State Labor Department (OSHA), who is also responding to this incident.

Some local media interest has occurred. The State does not plan on issuing a press release at this time.

Region II offered technical assistance to the State of Kentucky, but this offer was declined at this time. Also, the State will keep Region II apprised of new information as it becomes available.

Region II coordinated with Region IV, who in turn advised the appropriate authorities in the State of Arkansas.

The NRC received initial notification of this event by telephone from representatives of the Kentucky Health Department on December 12, 1990.

This information is current as of 3:30 p.m. on December 13, 1990.

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