

November 18, 1982

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-82-129

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: Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Nuclear Fuel Division
Docket No. 70-1151
Columbia, South Carolina

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

SUBJECT: INVENTORY DISCREPANCY

The licensee has been unable to locate 50 fuel rods which inventory records indicate should be present at the facility. The rods would contain a total of about 100 kilograms of low enriched uranium. The discrepancy was discovered by the licensee during a routine, semiannual inventory which was completed on October 31. The licensee informed Region II and has continued efforts to resolve the discrepancy since that time. Region II has kept NMSS informed of the progress of licensee efforts.

This physical inventory was the first during which the licensee accounted for individual fuel rods by serial number, and the first to be performed using a new computerized item control technique which the licensee initiated to upgrade its material control and accountability program. Approximately 114,000 fuel rods were processed during the inventory period.

Of the 50 fuel rods which are presently unaccounted for, approximately half were coded as being defective. The licensee believes they have been unloaded and processed as scrap. This view is supported by a calculated material balance inventory gain of 97 kilograms of uranium in the salvage area where defective rods are unloaded. Additionally, serial identification labels of seven defective and unaccounted for fuel rods were found in this area.

Material control and accountability inspectors from Region II are on site monitoring the licensee's efforts to resolve the inventory discrepancy.

Media interest has not occurred. Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans to issue a press release at this time.

The State of South Carolina has been informed.

The Information Assessment Team and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have been notified.

This information is current as of 2 p.m. on November 18.

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