

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-9409

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:  
Westinghouse Electric Company  
Forest Hills, Pennsylvania

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

Docket No.: 030-32414  
License No.: 37-00497-15  
Event No.: N/A  
Event Location Code: MAT

Subject: URANIUM CONTAMINATION ON FLOOR OF FORMER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FACILITY IN FOREST HILLS, PENNSYLVANIA

Westinghouse Electric Company (Westinghouse) has been performing characterization surveys in the various buildings at its Forest Hills, Pennsylvania facility in anticipation of requesting the NRC to release the site for unrestricted use and terminate NRC License No. 37-00497-15. This license authorizes research and development with a variety of radionuclides; however, there has been essentially no use of radioactive materials at the facility in the last five years and remaining radioactive material is in storage.

Surveys conducted on the fourth floor of the building, which was originally the research and development center for Westinghouse, identified U-235 contamination of the original wooden floor. Contamination levels up to approximately 1,500,000 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup> were measured. The original wooden floor had been covered with a layer of plywood, two layers of tile and a layer of carpeting during previous renovations in the area. The highest exposure rate measured 240 microrentgens per hour at contact with the carpet. Westinghouse has restricted access to the area and is performing additional surveys. Remediation plans will be developed once the characterization surveys are complete. Employees working in this converted office area had been temporarily relocated in order to perform the surveys. They have been briefed on the results of the preliminary survey. Based on the information provided by Westinghouse, Region I staff agrees there is little safety significance since the contamination is fixed in the original floor and has been covered for many years.

This PN is being issued because of the possibility of media attention to the situation. NRC Region I is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been notified.

This information is current as of 3:30 p.m., February 7, 1994.

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PNO-I-94-009 PDR

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