

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-9414

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:  
Defense Nuclear Agency  
Armed Forces Radiobiology  
Research Institute  
Bethesda, Maryland 20889

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

Docket No.: 030-04545  
License No.: 19-08330-02  
Event No.: None  
Event Location Code: MAT

Subject: DAMAGED DISCHARGE PIPE TO THE SANITARY SEWER

At 4:15 p.m. on February 23, 1994, the NRC Region I was notified by the Defense Nuclear Agency, AFRRRI, that the discharge pipe from their new Radioactive Waste System to the sanitary sewer was damaged during an excavation drilling to decommission the old Radioactive Waste System. The discharge pipe and the old Rad Waste System (e.g. 6 tanks and associated piping) are located approximately 15 to 20 feet below ground level. The contractor for the job is Rust Engineering who is working in conjunction with Chem Nuclear. The Radiation Safety Officer for AFRRRI reported that 1500 gallons of water containing levels of tritium and sulfur 35, below the limits in 10 CFR 20 Appendix B, were being discharged to the sanitary sewer and approximately 100 gallons of that water were released to the soil from the damaged pipe. The RSO stated that the damaged pipe had been secured until repair and that an alternate pipe will be pressurized and leak tested prior to use for effluent discharge. The RSO also stated that the soil affected by the spill will be analyzed for radioactivity and will be controlled as part of the decommissioning process of the old Radioactive Waste System.

Region I is assessing this event.

The State of Maryland was notified by Region I and Region I is prepared to respond to inquiries.

This PN is current as of 4:15 p.m. on February 23, 1994.

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PND-I-94-014 PDR

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