

S. Scott
 DESIGNATED ORIGINAL
 CONFIRMED BY: per JK

MAR 10 1983

**NOTICE OF NON-ROUTINE EVENT INVOLVING AGREEMENT STATE OR
 AGREEMENT MATERIAL - 83-05B**

This NOTICE constitutes an early report of events occurring in an Agreement State of possible safety or public interest significant. The information presented is an initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all this is known by State Agreement Program staff as of this date.

AGREEMENT STATE: New York

FACILITY: Auburn Steel Company
 Auburn, New York

SUBJECT: COBALT-60 CONTAMINATION OF METALS PRODUCTION
 FACILITY (Update)

This is to provide a further update on the contamination of the Auburn Steel Company steel plant in upstate New York.

On March 4, 1983, the company president and other management officials of the steel company met with EPA officials in Washington to discuss the Company's application for EPA Superfund monies to defray the cost of decontaminating the plant, estimated to at 1.2 million dollars. The decontamination project began March 3, 1983 and is likely to take 3 weeks. EPA officials expressed the view that this situation was not eligible for Superfund money. NRC-OSP representatives attended the meeting to address any questions concerning the Agreement State program and technical aspects of sealed source manufacture, distribution and use.

The steel company stated that scrap steel is obtained from about 100 sources in the northeast and in Canada. Scrap steel is usually processed within 10-14 days. IP has been notified of the possible international aspects. New York State Police are investigating the records of scrap shipments to the plant. Region I has furnished the State Police a list of companies authorized to manufacture or distribute Cobalt-60 sealed sources and a list of NRC licensees in New York authorized to possess Cobalt-60. The NRC office of Investigation plans to offer the State Police assistance in their efforts to identify the origin of the Cobalt-60.

The New York Department of Labor has reviewed and approved a decontamination plan submitted by the contractor at the site. Region I has reviewed and commented on the plan.

Based upon available information, the contamination is confined to within the property boundaries of the steel plant and does not present an immediate threat to public health and safety. There is no evidence of contamination of workers.

OFFICE				
URNAM	8303280125	830310		
DATE	PDR	STPRG	ESGNY	PDR

Media interest is continuing and Region I is responding to media inquiries.

This information is current as of 9:00 a.m., March 10, 1983.

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