

Date: December 17, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-80-173A

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Nuclear Metals, Inc. *40-672*
Concord, Massachusetts
License No. SMB-179

Subject: BIOASSAY RESULTS FOR EMPLOYEE CONTAMINATED WITH DEPLETED URANIUM
IN THE FORM OF GREEN SALT (U F₄)

At 1:00 p.m. on December 17, 1980, the Quality Assurance and Safety Supervisor at Nuclear Metals, Inc. reported initial bioassay results for the employee mentioned in PNO-I-80-173. Urine specimens were collected on December 15 (day of the event) and December 16, 1980. The reported results of urinalysis for uranium performed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are 8, 7, 7, and 6 micrograms of uranium per liter of urine. These concentrations are 12 percent of the licensee's action guidelines for urinalysis results and are consistent with normal exposures to concentrations of uranium in air at Nuclear Metals, Inc.

The supervisor also reported that discussions with the employee and his co-workers revealed that the employee had been wearing a respirator at the time the depleted uranium as a green salt (U F₄) powder fell into his face. On the basis of this information and the results of urinalysis, it appears that the employee was not exposed to airborne concentrations of uranium in excess of NRC limits. The licensee stated that additional urinalyses would be performed to confirm these results.

A press release is not planned by the licensee nor Region I.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been informed.

This PN is issued for information only. The circumstances of this event will be reviewed during a future inspection.

Contact: J. Glenn 488-1343 H. W. Crocker 488-1217

8304280041 801217
PDR I&E
PNO-I-80-173A PDR

DISTRIBUTION: (Facsimile Transmission Times Noted)

H ST BLDG 3:15
Chairman Ahearne
Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Bradford
Commissioner Hendrie
ACRS
S. J. Chilk, SECY
C. C. Kammerer, CA

MARYLAND NATIONAL
BANK BUILDING 3:45
W. J. Dircks, EDO
C. Michelson, AEOD
J. J. Fouchard, PA
N. M. Haller, MPA
G. W. Kerr, OSP
H. K. Shapar, ELD

IE:XOOS 3:10
NPC/TMI Program
Office _____

Region II 3:25
Region III 3:28
Region IV 4:00
Region V 3:35

PHILLIPS BLDG 3:22
H. R. Denton, NRR
R. H. Vollmer, NRR
F. Schroeder, NRR
D. F. Ross, NRR
D. Eisenhut, NRR
S. H. Hanauer, NRR

WILLSTE BLDG 3:50
J. G. Davis, NMSS
T. Murley, RES

RI Resident Sites
_____/_____

LANDOW BLDG (Fax by HQ)
(6 MIN/PAGE)
J. J. Cummings, OIA

(MAIL)
R. Minogue, SD
IE:XOOS
Document Mgt. Br.
S. Ebbin, NSOC