

April 26, 1983

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-83-10C

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 NRC staff on this date.

FACILITY: Gulf Nuclear, Inc.  
Webster, Texas  
(Texas Agreement State  
Licensee)

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

SUBJECT: EXPOSURE TO AMERICIUM-241

This is to provide an update on the americium-241 incident involving Gulf Nuclear, Inc., a Texas licensee.

As a result of the lawsuit filed by the licensee against the Texas Department of Health, a Texas judge issued a temporary injunction on March 29, 1983, barring certain actions by the Texas Department of Health and thus permitting continuing operations by the licensee.

Results reported by Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) regarding whole body counting indicate that four out of the seven employees tested have body burdens in the thorax region ranging from 15 to 234 nCi of americium-241. A medical consultant has been retained by the licensee to provide specialized treatment if desired by any of these employees.

The State is continuing its investigation of the incident, and is evaluating further enforcement actions available to the State. There continues to be media interest concerning the incident.

CONTACT: R. J. Doda, RIV 728-8139

DISTRIBUTION:

H. ST.	MNBB	Phillips	E/W	Willste	MAIL:
Chmn Palladino	EDO	NRR	IE	NISS	DOT: Trans Only
Comm. Gilinsky	PA		OIA	RES	DMB (Original)
Comm. Ahearne	MPA		AEOD		INPO
Comm. Roberts	ELD				NSAC
Comm. Asselstine					
SECY		Air Rights			
ACRS		SP			
CA					
PDR Regions: _____				Licensee: _____	
				(Reactor Licensees)	

SAP <i>[Signature]</i>	TPB <i>[Signature]</i>	PA <i>[Signature]</i>	<del>DV&amp;TP</del>	RA-RIV
RJDoda/nh	GDB <i>[Signature]</i>	CE <i>[Signature]</i>	RLB <i>[Signature]</i>	JTC <i>[Signature]</i>
4/13/83	4/13/83	4/13/83	4/13/83	4/13/83

*IE 34*

Faxed to Comm. for midnight dispatch 4/26