

February 4, 1982

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-82-05

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 IE staff on this date.

FACILITY: General Atomic Company
P. O. Box 81608
San Diego, CA 92138
License: SMN-696

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

70-734

SUBJECT: LEAKING SHIPMENT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

A shipment of radioactive material from the General Atomic Company, en route to Barnwell, South Carolina, was observed leaking a liquid at a truck stop on Interstate 10 west of Las Cruces, New Mexico, on February 3, 1982. The driver identified the leak, roped off the area, and notified authorities. Shipping paper information indicates that the shipment contained 60 grams of natural uranium, 95 grams of uranium-235, 368 grams of thorium-230 and 62 microcuries of solids. General Atomic and Chem Nuclear personnel are en route to the scene and will handle clean-up and repackaging as necessary. A State of New Mexico representative and a NRC Region IV inspector will also travel to the site and are expected to arrive late on February 4, 1982.

New Mexico has made a press release.

Region IV was notified by telephone by the State of New Mexico at 10:45 a.m., February 4, 1982.

CONTACT: Glen D. Brown, FTS 728-8182
Jerry Everett, FTS 728-8187

DISTRIBUTION:

H. St. _____	MNBB _____	Phillips _____	E/W _____	Willste _____	Landow _____
Chairman Palladino	EDO _____	NRR _____	IE _____	NMSS _____	OIA _____
Comm. Gilinsky	AEOD _____			RES _____	
Comm. Bradford	PA _____	Air Rights _____			MAIL: _____
Comm. Ahearne	MPA _____	SP _____		INPO _____	IE:TAS _____
Comm. Roberts	ELD _____			NSAC _____	ADM:Doc. Mgt. Br. _____
ACRS _____					NSOC: S. Ebbins _____
SECY _____					
CA _____		Regional Offices _____			

MRPS <i>JE</i>	TIB <i>GB</i>	SP <i>RD</i>	PA <i>AW</i>	DRA <i>KV</i>	RA-RIN <i>JC</i>
JEverett	GBrown	RDoda	CWisner	KVSeifrit	JTCollins
2/4/82	2/4/82	2/4/82	2/4/82	2/4/82	2/4/82

IE-34