

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-V-81-18B

Date: August 7, 1981

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: Veterans Administration Hospital
Wilshire and Sawtelle Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA
License No. 04-00181-04

DESIGNATED ORIGINAL

Certified By Doc Noack

SUBJECT: MEDIA INTEREST IN ONSITE LAND BURIALS (UPDATE)

From about 1960 until 1968 this Veterans Hospital buried radioactive waste on hospital controlled property nearby. For many years, such burials of small quantities of radioactive materials were authorized by NRC regulations. This licensee contacted the NRC, requesting a position or guidance on release of that property for conversion to a public park. A local Congressman (Beilenson, D. CA) has also expressed interest in the release of the property.

The evaluation of the property by the NRC has been completed. A letter dated August 6, 1981 was sent by NMSS to the licensee stating that the property may be released without any restrictions on future use resulting from radioactive material that may have been buried in the past. A similar letter has been sent by NMSS to the Congressman's office in Los Angeles. The licensee, the Congressman's office, EPA, and the State of California have been informed by telephone.

Media interest developed at the time of the original proposal to convert the property to a public park. A local activist group named Committee to Bridge the Gap has been opposing the conversion. Additional media attention is expected.

Region V (San Francisco) received notification of this action at 2:30 p.m. on August 6, 1981. This information is current as of 10:00 a.m. on August 7, 1981.

This item is submitted for information only and is closed for reporting purposes.

CONTACT: R.D. Thomas or H.E. Book, 463-3700

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