

*of file
HP*

Inter-Office Memorandum



Date November 27, 1979

Subject UNMARKED RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL IN
AN UNRESTRICTED AREA

To R. W. HEWARD, JR.

Location Three Mile Island

I. Statement of occurrence:

Two drums containing radioactive material were found in an unrestricted area. Both drums were unmarked.

II. Cause of occurrence:

- a. Inadequate surveys resulting in failure to properly identify radioactive material.
- b. Use of drums marked L.S.A. for other than radioactive material shipments.

III. Description of the occurrence

On Monday, November 19, 1979 the Health Physics office Unit II was notified by the warehouse foreman that there were some 55 gallon drums sitting by the South Cooling towers between the NRC trailers and the storage shed. He asked the HP foreman to have the drums surveyed to find out what their radiological status was.

There were twelve drums in all. They were found to be in various physical condition from undamaged to crushed and split open. All twelve of the drums surveyed were found to be free of any loose surface contamination ie < 1000 dpm. Of these twelve drums some had been broken open and were found to contain HOH resin in clear poly bags. Surveys of accessible portions of the inside of these drums showed that they were below the release limits.

Two of the drums were undamaged. One of these was reading 3 mr/hr. contact, the other was reading 0.5 mr/hr. contact. Both readings were found to be at the bottom of the drums. Smears of the outside of the drums were found to be < 1000 dpm/100 cm². Both drums were sealed.

IV. Immediate Corrective Action

The HP foreman had the two drums moved into the South East radioactive material storage shed where they were properly tagged and locked up. The ten other drums were moved to an area outside of the S.E. storage shed for temporary storage.

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PDR ADOCK 05000320
P PDR

V. Investigation of incident

Upon investigation of the origin of these drums it was found that on Thursday, November 15, 1979 seven drums were loaded onto a United disposal truck to be sent to the Harrisburg City dump. The drums were not marked in any manner which would indicate they contained radioactive material. It is not known if the two drums in question were included in this group of seven.

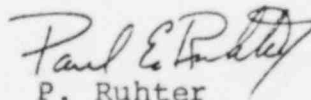
When the drums were brought to the Harrisburg city dump they were refused because there were no facilities available to crush and dispose of them. The United disposal carrier brought the drums to his storage shed in Elizabethtown and stored them there overnight. On Friday, November 16, 1979 the drums were brought back to the island and placed at the South End of the island, adjacent to five other drums.

The fact that the drums had been refused by the Harrisburg dump alerted the warehouse foreman to have health physics investigate the matter further.

The origin of the twelve drums previous to this time is uncertain. During the cleanup campaign many items were moved out of Unit I and II restricted areas to be disposed of as clean waste. There was nothing on the drums to indicate where they had come from. There was an LSA (low specific activity) stencil painted over on one of the drums. There was also a hazardous material sticker or portions thereof on one drum.

VI. Recommendations:

- 1) The two drums containing radioactive material be opened up to determine if the contents or the drums themselves are radioactive.
- 2) Any drum used to contain radioactive material be conspicuously marked such as with a yellow band around the middle and the radiation symbol log stenciled on.
- 3) Drums used to contain or transport radioactive material be used only for that purpose.
- 4) Drums used for transporting laundry be marked accordingly and used only for that purpose.



P. Ruhter
Manager-Radiological Technical
Support

PR:rg

cc: W. Craft F. Pendleton J.T. Collins
 R. Ferguson J. Renshaw
 R. Douville W. Zurliene

SMEAR SURVEY RECORD
THREE MILE ISLAND GENERATING STATION

File Copy

<p>SURVEY INFORMATION:</p> <p>Location <u>55 gal drums, S.E. Acres</u></p> <p>Date <u>11-27-79</u></p> <p>Time <u>0900</u></p> <p>Number _____</p> <p>Surveyor <u>Halter</u></p>	<p>COUNTING INFORMATION:</p> <p>Instrument Used <u>RM-14</u></p> <p>Efficiency: By <u>10%</u> Bkg: By <u>40</u></p> <p>Date <u>11-27-79</u></p> <p>Time <u>1045</u></p> <p>Technician <u>Halter</u></p>	<p>REMARKS:</p> <p><u>Cal. due date</u> <u>12-27-79</u></p> <p align="right"><i>Review by</i> <i>R. Halter</i></p>
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B8

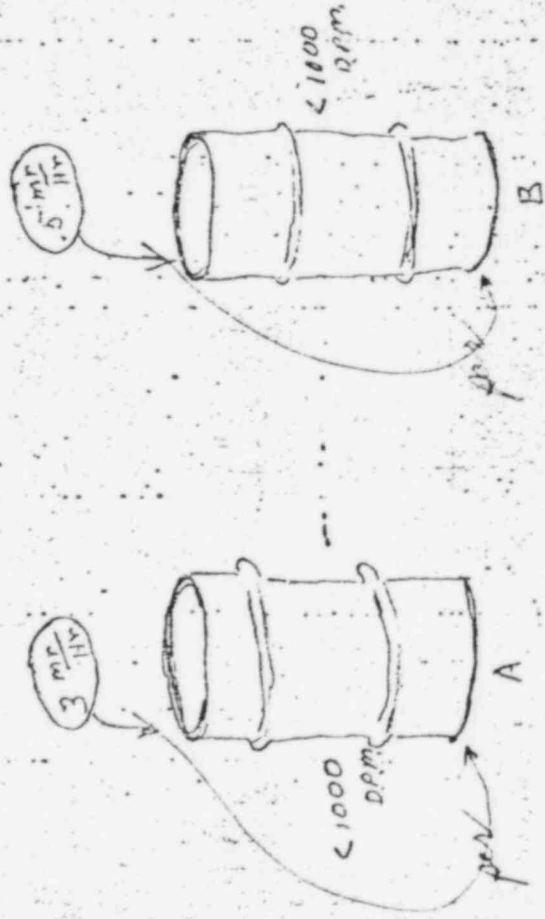
LOCATION: SAMPLE NUMBER	GROSS SAMPLE COUNTS	COUNT TIME	GROSS CPM	2σPLUS BKG CPM	NET CPM	DPM	LOCATION: SAMPLE NUMBER	GROSS SAMPLE COUNTS	COUNT TIME	GROSS CPM	2σPLUS BKG CPM	NET CPM	DPM
	<100	1 min				<1000	26						
	<100	↓				<1000	27						
	<100					<1000	28						
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55 gal. drums located at the S.E. Storage Bldg.

2. Drums were brought back from an off site dump site.

3. 10 other drums are located outside the storage building. Green Tagged

not confirmed by letter



Data-Gamma Readings in Mr/hr.

(0) = Background

Date 11-22-79

Time 1000

Instrument: E-570 ± 15%

Technician: Walter Rice

Ad. du

1-22-80



11-23-79