

DCS: 03004579831122  
Date: November 22, 1983

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-83-118

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 the Region I staff on this date.

Facility: New England Nuclear Corporation	Licensee Emergency Classification:
Boston, Massachusetts	____ Notification of Unusual Event
(L/N: 20-00320-09)	____ Alert
(D/N: 030-04579)	____ Site Area Emergency
	____ General Emergency
	<u>X</u> Not Applicable

Subject: DISCOVERY OF SPENT RADIOPHARMACEUTICAL GENERATOR IN MARYLAND

At 1:00 p.m. on November 22, 1983, Region I received a report from the State of Maryland that a private citizen had found a spent molybdenum-99/technetium-99m generator by the side of I-495 near the Maryland side of the Cabin John bridge at 10:30 a.m. that morning. Two Maryland state troopers responded to the citizen's call to the police. The New England Nuclear Corporation generator dates from 1979. A representative of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Radiation Safety Staff responded at Maryland's request and confirmed that no radiation or radioactive material were present. Several people, however, including the state troopers, were taken to the National Naval Medical Center complaining of illness. Several fire trucks and the press responded, a perimeter was roped off, and I-495 was closed for a time before the generator was confirmed to be non-radioactive and taken to NIH. Neither the shipper nor the carrier have been identified at this time.

This incident has already received considerable media coverage in the District of Columbia area. Region I plans no further action as Maryland is an agreement state. Region I will maintain contact with the State of Maryland.

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          488-1276          488-1260

DISTRIBUTION:

H. St. _____	MNBB _____	Phillips <u>3:48</u>	E/W _____	Willste _____	Mail: ADM:DMB
Chairman Palladino	EDO _____	NRR	IE _____	NMSS	DOT:Trans only
Comm. Gilinsky	PA		OIA	RES	
Comm. Bernthal	MPA		AEOD		
Comm. Roberts	ELD				
Comm. Asselstine					
ACRS	Air Rights		UNPO----		
SECY	SP		NSAC----		
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PDR	Regional Offices _____			TMI Resident Section <u>4:00</u>	
				RI Resident Office _____	
				Licensee: _____	
				(Reactor Licensees)	

Region I Form 83 (Rev. January, 1983)

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