

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-9532A

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information has been confirmed by the licensee.

Facility:  
National Bureau of Standards Reactor  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Institute of Standards  
and Technology  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899

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

Docket No.: 50-184  
License No.: TR-5  
Event No.:  
Event Location Code: NPR

SUBJECT: BOMB THREAT (UPDATE)

The National Bureau of Standards Reactor (NBSR) is located on the grounds of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, Maryland. As reported previously, on August 22, 1995 at approximately 7:10 am, two voice mail messages were received on the office phone of the NIST Chief of Facility Services. The phone messages were garbled and unintelligible, but enhancement by in-house staff revealed the words "bomb", "in Nuclear Reactor building", "6 million", "Hurry up" and multiple uses of "Now". The voice appeared to be male. The reactor was not operating at the time and had been shut down for the last fourteen months. NIST declared an Unusual Event, notified the FBI, and heightened security awareness. The NRC Information Assessment Team (IAT) was informed of this event.

On August 24, 1995 at approximately 7:30 am a third voice mail message was received on the office phone of the NIST Chief of Facility Services. The phone message was again garbled and unintelligible. The message was sent to in-house staff for enhancement. At 8:45 am the Reactor Director was notified that another garbled message had been received. Again, the reactor was not operating. As a precaution the facility was searched, including the roof and outside grounds. No explosive device or other unusual item was found. No references to the reactor facility were noted, so an Unusual Event declaration was not made. NIST Security notified the FBI. NIST Security does not believe the threat to be credible. The NRC Information Assessment Team (IAT) was informed of this event.

The State of Maryland has been notified.

Region I received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the licensee at 9:00 a.m., August 24, 1995. This information is current as of 4:00 p.m. on August 24, 1995.

Region I is prepared to respond to media inquiries

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(610)-337-5390

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DISTRIBUTION:

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Regional Offices \_\_\_\_\_ RI Resident Office \_\_\_\_\_

Licensee: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Reactor Licensees)

\*\* General list for sending PNs by FAX