

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 staff on this date.

Facility: Union Electric Co.  
Callaway Nuclear Plant  
Steedman, MO 65077

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

Docket No: 50-483

Subject: NEWS MEDIA INTEREST IN MINOR PERSONNEL CONTAMINATION

Missouri news media carried reports on February 4, 1985, that 22 workers at the Callaway Station had received minor radioactive contamination of their clothing on January 31, 1985.

Region III (Chicago) was informed by the licensee that the contamination was identified as the workers passed through a highly sensitive radiation monitor (state-of-the-art) as they exited the Auxiliary Building. Further examination showed that the contamination in 20 instances was naturally occurring radon daughters and in the other two was a combination of radon daughters and rubidium. Only the rubidium would be associated with plant activities. The contamination levels were only slightly above background levels. The source of the radon is thought to be the concrete in plant structures or in the underlying soil.

The licensee also stated that several workers a day had contamination levels which were detectable by the exit monitor -- and that the contamination was typically radon daughters. The licensee is considering whether to take action to reduce the radon levels by sealing the concrete.

Region III has received a number of inquiries from Missouri news media.

The State of Missouri will be notified.

Region III received an inquiry from a member of the public about 9 a.m. February 4, 1985. Subsequent information was obtained from the NRC Resident Inspector and the licensee. This information is current as of 8 a.m., February 5, 1985.

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