

December 24, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-96-096

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 Region I staff in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania on this date.

Facility

Massachusetts Institute Of Technology
Massachusetts Institute Of Tech
Cambridge, Massachusetts
Dockets: 05000020 License No: R-37

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
X Not Applicable

Subject: PERSONNEL ISSUE INVOLVING SITE EMPLOYEE

On December 23, 1996, the licensee informed the NRC of a disturbance involving a mechanic, employed by MIT to support the reactor facility. The employee abruptly left the facility in a very agitated state. The individual reportedly went to his residence, obtained a gun, and was reported to be heading for the Andover State Forest.

At the time of this occurrence, the reactor was shutdown and is expected to remain in that condition through the remainder of the week. While the individual made no threat against the facility, the licensee took actions to maintain the security of the reactor and determined that the individual was always in the company of co-workers prior to his abrupt departure. The licensee has reason to believe that the reactor facility was unaffected. The campus police force was contacted. An armed guard was posted at the access to the reactor building to maintain surveillance through the night. The individual's computer-controlled access authorization was terminated to prevent access to the reactor building. Staff were provided a description of the individual to aid in recognition should the individual return to the facility. Local law enforcement agencies, including the Methuen Police Department, were notified and were reportedly engaged in trying to locate the individual as of 5:00 pm, 12/23/96.

The Department of Health-Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the NRC Information Assessment Team were notified of the situation by NRC Region I personnel. Regional personnel will maintain contact with the licensee until the matter is resolved.

This PN is current as of 10:00 a.m., December 24, 1996. Region I Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

Contact: JOHN WHITE
(610) 337-5114

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