

DCS No: 03008666880317  
Date: March 17, 1988

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-88-32A

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:                             | Licensee Emergency Classification:                     |
| Gollob Analytical Service Corporation | <input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event |
| 47 Industrial Road                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Alert                         |
| Berkeley Heights, New Jersey 07922    | <input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency           |
| License No. 29-09801-02               | <input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency             |
| Docket No. 030-08666                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable     |

Subject: EXPLOSION AND FIRE AT LICENSEE FACILITY - UPDATE

NRC Region I inspectors arrived at the Gollob Analytical Service Corporation site at 11:00 a.m. on March 17, 1988. The fire was under control at that time, and completely out shortly after. Two gas chromatographs containing 15 millicuries (mCi) of nickel-63 were completely burned in the fire. Previous experience indicates that the radioactive material in these devices is not released in a fire, but is retained in the metal case of the instrument. All other licensed material was stored at the end of the building where the least damage occurred. Inspectors observed several intact polybottles labelled as containing 300-500 mCi of carbon-14, and several small gas cylinders containing unknown quantities of tritiated gases. The cylinders appeared to be intact, although some scorching was noted. Wipe tests of the polybottles and the gas cylinders did not detect removable contamination. At this time it does not appear that any licensed material was released from the site.

The licensee is using contract guards to maintain security at the site and an investigation into the cause of the fire continues. The licensee will develop a plan for safely removing the radioactive material before reentering the building. NRC Region I inspectors will monitor the removal of the licensed material when it occurs.

Contrary to a statement in the earlier PN, Region I did not issue a press release, but has responded to numerous media inquiries. The licensee held a press briefing earlier today.

Representatives of the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection remained at the site and worked with the Region I inspectors.

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

Region I Form 83  
(Rev. August 1987)