

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 III staff on this date.

Facility: Marion Steel Company
912 Cheney Avenue
Marion, Ohio

License No. 34-21123-01

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

Subject: LEAKING RADIOACTIVE GAUGES; EMPLOYEES CONTAMINATED

Region III (Chicago) was notified at 9:10 a.m. (CDT), June 10, 1988, that on the evening of June 9, a ladle spilled molten steel in the vicinity of four radioactive gauges containing sealed sources of cesium-137.

The shutters on all four Kay-Ray gauges (each containing 500 millicuries of cesium-137) were stuck in the open position. The gauges were removed via fork lift and placed in steel containers. When notified of the event, a Region III inspector told the company's radiation safety officer (RSO) to check the gauges for leakage, concluding that if the molten steel damaged the shutters it also could have damaged the sealed sources.

The RSO reported back later that leak test measurements indicated that two of the four gauges were leaking. One wipe test measured 45 millirem per hour (mr) with a portable GM survey meter. The other three measured 1.1 mr/hr, .01 mr/hr and .02 mr/hr.

The State of Ohio was contacted by Region III and agreed to send inspectors to the site. Four workers were subsequently checked for contamination by inspectors from the State of Ohio. Three individuals were found to have some contamination. One was found to have contamination on his hand and clothing. The other two had only contaminated clothing. The State is monitoring the situation and will remain until the NRC arrives.

During the course of the event and the aftermath, shift workers went home. The possibility exists that the workers may have been contaminated and in leaving the premises spread the contamination elsewhere. About 25-30 employees are being asked to return to the plant to be surveyed.

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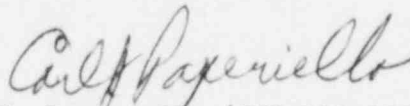
The ladle holding the molten steel is in an inside area three stories high. The sources were located below the ladle. Since it is unknown whether contamination is widespread or localized, Region III is also sending a site team to the facility via charter aircraft. Anticipated time of arrival is about 8 p.m. (CDT). A Region III inspector was dispatched to the site earlier in the day.

Department of Energy has been notified.

This information is current as of 4:30 p.m. (CDT), June 10, 1988.



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