

Advance copy

March 1, 1989

*PDR:
per J. Rathje*

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-89-16

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 II staff on this date.

FACILITY: Westinghouse
Fuel Fabrication Plant
Docket No. 70-1151

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

SUBJECT: DEER DEATHS

The South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Office, Division of Law Enforcement, reported an increase in deer deaths in the vicinity of the Westinghouse Fuel Fabrication Plant near Columbia, South Carolina. According to the Marine and Wildlife representatives, approximately 25 dead deer have been found in a 250 acre tract downstream of the Westinghouse discharge system outfall. The deaths have occurred about a 3 week period. At this point, wildlife officials have not established a cause for the increased deer deaths. Early biological tests ruled out certain bacterial and viral causes. Further tests are planned. The wildlife officials have coordinated their activities with Westinghouse officials and management representatives of other industrial operations in the immediate area.

Regional office has discussed this matter with Westinghouse plant management. Westinghouse management stated that their review of recent discharge records does not show any unusual radiological or non-radiological effluent releases. Westinghouse analyzed some water from the vicinity where the dead deer were located and found no unusual levels of contamination. Westinghouse officials are cooperating with State officials on this matter.

An NRC inspector has been diverted from a nearby site to review this matter. The State of South Carolina Radiological Health Program has been notified. There have been media inquiries concerning this matter, but there has been no resultant news story.

The NRC received initial notification of this event by The South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources around 10:00 a.m., 3/1/89.

This information is current as of 2:30 p.m. on March 1, 1989.

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