

September 16, 1998

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-98-045

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 III staff (Lisle, Illinois) on this date.

Facility
Iowa Electric Light & Power Co.
Duane Arnold 1
Palo, Iowa
Dockets: 50-331

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

Subject: EMPTY CASK RECEIVED WITH EXTERNAL CONTAMINATION ABOVE DOT LIMITS

On September 14, 1998, an empty Type B shipping cask was received by the licensee from Frank W. Hake and Associates, located in Tennessee. The licensee's initial receipt surveys found removable contamination levels of approximately 40,000 disintegrations per minute (dpm) per 100 square centimeters on the external surfaces of the cask. This exceeded the Department of Transportation limit of 22,000 dpm (49 CFR 173.443).

The contamination was found on the external surfaces of the cask, which were covered by the impact limiters. The cask and impact limiters are enclosed in a personnel barrier during shipment. No detectable contamination was found on the personnel barrier. There was no public health and safety risk.

The licensee has decontaminated the cask.

Region III (Chicago) is informing the State of Tennessee, which is an Agreement State with jurisdiction over the shipper. The State of Iowa will also be notified. The information in this preliminary notification have been reviewed with licensee management.

The licensee reported the contamination to the NRC Operations Center at 3:02 p.m. (CDT) on September 15, 1998. This information is current as of 11:30 a.m. (CDT) on September 16, 1998.

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