

PDR advance copy  
per J. Raloff

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

November 29, 1978

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-78-190C

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Privately Owned Landfill  
Norton, Massachusetts

Subject: RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

NRC inspectors conducting radiological surveys of 14 dump sites in the Norton-Attleboro, Massachusetts area, have identified 8 small (less than 4 ft<sup>2</sup>) localized contaminated areas in a public park in Attleboro, Mass. These small contaminated areas pose no threat to the health and safety of the public. The maximum observed readings are 0.1 mr/hr gross beta gamma at 3 feet above the surface of the ground; 0.3 mr/hr at the surface; and, approximately 2 mr/hr at a depth of 5 inches below the surface. The total depth and below surface breadth of the contamination is unknown at this time. The survey of the approximately 5 acre park is 50% completed.

Surveys of 9 dump sites have been completed and have been found free of detectable radioactive contamination. These 14 surveys should be completed by December 1, 1978.

Media interest is expected because a reporter and a press photographer were with the survey team when the contamination was found. The survey effort is receiving extensive local press coverage. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and local officials are participating in the survey effort.

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