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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

EXEMPT FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PURSUANT TO 10 CFR 2.790(d)

October 28, 1976

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF SAFEGUARDS EVENT--

PNS-76-63

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE national security 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 as of this date.

Facility:           Atomics International/Rockwell International  
Canoga Park, California  
Docket No. 70-25

Subject:           SMALL EXPLOSIONS NEAR AI MAIN PLANT

The Captain of Industrial Security at the licensee's plant on DeSoto Avenue, Canoga Park, reported that apparently two detonations occurred within a small area fenced to enclose the plant water service street connection and which is outside the plant security area, at approximately 4:30 p.m. EST on October 27, 1976. The detonations started a small brush fire which was immediately extinguished. There was no damage to the water main or enclosure. The enclosure is located in front of the plant near the street and about 150 feet from the nearest building. The Los Angeles Fire Department arson investigators and Los Angeles Police Department bomb squad are investigating the incident. AI security patrols were increased following the incident.

The licensee reports that the detonations were apparently caused by incendiary devices. Witnesses reported seeing a yellow pickup truck in the vicinity.

According to the licensee, no bomb threat or other related messages were received.

The plant has been processing high enriched uranium into reactor fuel under ERDA contract.

Considerable media interest is developing.

A Region V inspector will be dispatched to the site today.

CONTINUE

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PDR I&E  
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October 28, 1976

NRC Region V (Walnut Creek, California) received original notification at 5:10 p.m. EST by telephone from the licensee's captain of security on October 27, 1976.

The IAT has been notified.

Contact: KWhitt, IE x27261    GWRoy, IE x27261    DThompson, IE x27541

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Transmitted: PBldg 9:55 am; H St 9:55 PM; MNBB 10 am; Luge mail;

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