

PDR Advance by Per
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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

March 15, 1978

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-78-45

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an 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.

Subject: DETONATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPON

IE Headquarters was notified by both the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency that a nuclear weapon of less than 20 kilotons was detonated in the Lop Nor province of the Peoples Republic of China on March 15, 1978, at Midnight EDT. No information is yet available on the expected arrival of fallout.

On March 15, NRC regional representatives alerted all operating nuclear power reactors and other nuclear facilities which could be affected by high levels of fallout. Licensees were not requested to conduct any special sampling and analyses.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will keep NRC advised of their fallout cloud predictions. NRC staff will keep abreast of the situation but does not plan any further action.

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