

NARRATIVE SUMMARY
LER 1-79-54

On August 2, 1979, while performing the monthly inventory of Special Nuclear Material it was found that three detectors, 2 Source Range Monitors, and 1 Intermediate Range Monitor, had been removed from their storage location in the CRD cavity area of the drywell and shipped offsite to a disposal area without proper authorization having been received. This is contrary to HNP procedures and 10CFR73.

When these detectors are replaced they usually represent a radiation problem and are allowed to remain in the drywell until decayed sufficiently for removal to Radwaste and shipment offsite. Because the drywell has been considered a closed zone and contact with the detectors is usually avoided during replacement, the units have not been tagged as special nuclear material.

During the last refueling outage extensive work in the drywell was performed and during the cleanup workers mistakenly removed these detectors with other debris. They were processed with other contaminated equipment and shipped offsite for burial as all three had decayed sufficiently to no longer present a radiation problem.

The site recognizes the oversight which resulted in the loss of these detectors and has begun corrective action to prevent recurrence of this type event in the future. Detector replacement procedures are being revised to provide statements ensuring that the detectors are marked as SNM when removed. Also personnel have been advised to remove spent detectors to more appropriate storage locations on a timely basis.