

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Paulus

Date: February 20, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-III-80-33

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events 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: Camart Corporation, Cincinnati, Ohio, License No. 34-00639-03C

SUBJECT: SPILL OF CESIUM-137 MICROSPHERES IN RESTRICTED AREA

The licensee reported that at 10:30 a.m. E.S.T. a 100 millicurie cesium-137 source was penetrated during a drilling operation releasing cesium-137 microspheres to a work area.

Two persons were in the immediate vicinity of the source. One person had his left hand contaminated to 18 mr/hr at contact (measuring cap on chamber) and greater than 300 mrad/hr at contact (cap off measuring chamber) as measured by Victoreen 440 meter. A partial decontamination of the contaminated individual has reduced levels on his left hand to about 3 mrad/hour. The other individual was not contaminated.

Consequences of inhalation or ingestion, if any, are not known at this time. A medical consultant, called by the licensee, is on site evaluating the exposures of the individuals. Whole body counts, urine and fecal bioassays will be performed. Nose and mouth swipes have been taken but results are not available at this time. Film badges will be processed on an emergency basis.

The room in which the penetrated source is located is locked and alarmed. Stop off pad procedures have been set up in the area outside the room.

An NRC, Region III, Chicago inspector has been dispatched to the site.

The State of Ohio is being notified of the incident.

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There has been no media interest. NRC, Region III, will issue a press release if appropriate after bioassay measurements are completed.

NRC, Region III, Chicago was notified of the incident at 1:35 p.m. CST on February 20, 1980 by the licensee.

Contact: J. A. Pagliaro, 384-2518; A. B. Davis, 384-2510.

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