

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-V-85-42

Date: July 11, 1985

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 Region V staff on this date.

FACILITY: Exxon Nuclear Co., Inc.
Richland, Washington
SNM-1227 and
State of Washington Licensee

Emergency Classification
☐ Notification of Unusual Event
☐ Alert
☐ Site Area Emergency
☐ General Emergency
☒ Not Applicable

70-1257

SUBJECT: RECEIPT OF CONTAMINATED PACKAGES

The Region V office was notified by the licensee at 3:45 PM, PDT, on July 10, 1985 that they had received several fiberglass cases containing scientific instrumentation and foam cushioning materials which were contaminated with a low-energy beta-emitting material. The cases, foam, and instrumentation were all contaminated. Initial readings on the surface of the objects indicated levels up to 600,000 disintegrations per minute. Removable contamination surveys indicated up to 20,000 disintegrations per minute.

The cases were shipped from the Tihange reactor in Belgium to the United States via Cargo Lux Airlines, which flew from Luxembourg to Seattle, Washington. From Seattle, the cases were transported via Garrett Freight Lines to Exxon.

The State of Washington was immediately notified of this event.

NRC Region V is following the State's progress and is standing by to provide technical assistance if requested.

No press releases have been issued pending receipt of further information.

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DISTRIBUTION

H St. 10:45	MNEB 10:23	Phillips 10:22	E/W 10:44	Willste 10:27	Air Rights 10:46	Mail:
Chairman Pallidino	EDO	NRR	IE	NMSS		ADM:DMB
Comm. Zech	PA		OIA	RES		DOT:Trans Only
Comm. Bernthal	MPA		AEOD			
Comm. Roberts	ELD					
Comm. Asselstine						
SECY		Regions: RI-11:03, II-11:15, RIII-11:16, RIV-11:17				
ACRS		INPO _____ NSAC _____				
CA		Licensee: _____				
PDR		(Reactor Licensees)				
		Resident Inspector _____				
				REGION V: FORM 211		
				(Revised 3/14/83)		

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PDR I&E
PNO-V-85-042 PDR

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