

September 27, 1996

• PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-96-046C

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by Region III staff (Lisle, Illinois) on this date.

Facility
PERFECTION SERVICES
Perfection Services
Stone Creek, Ohio
License No: 34-16305-01

Licensee Emergency Classification
Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
X Not Applicable

Subject: LEAKING SOURCES-(THIRD UPDATE)

On September 25, 1996, a leaking 74 gigabecquerel (2 curie) cesium-137 well logging source was packaged and removed from the licensee's facility for transport and disposal at the Barnwell Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility in South Carolina. This was the last remaining well logging source at the licensee's facility. Also removed from the facility for disposal was about one third cubic foot of dry active waste comprised of paper and plastic.

On September 25 and 26, 1996, following the removal of the cesium-137 leaking source, NRC Region III (Chicago) inspectors conducted surveys of the in-ground source storage pit where the sources were stored, and 100 percent of the accessible floor area and of the lower two meters of the walls. Forty survey wipes were also collected from the in-ground source storage pit. Based on the surface scans, no contamination was identified in excess of the NRC's guidelines for the unrestricted release of a facility. Although the wipes must still be analyzed, they are not expected to indicate any contamination.

Currently, the licensee has ceased operations and filed for bankruptcy. Nineteen well logging sources were previously housed at the licensee's facility. On August 22, 1996, seventeen of the sources and three well logging trucks were removed. Two of the nineteen sources were not removed because they were leaking in excess of the 0.005 microcurie (185 Bq) regulatory limit. During the week of August 26, 1996, the first of the two leaking sources, a 111 gigabecquerel (3 curie) americium-241/beryllium source, was transferred to the Department of Energy.

The State of Ohio and the NRC Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards have been notified of the source transfers and the results of the additional radiological surveys.

This information is current as of 3:30 p.m. (CDT) on September 26, 1996.

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