

September 30, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-96-071

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 I staff in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania on this date.

Facility

Ins Corporation
Ins Corporation
295 Parker Street
P.O. Box 51957
Springfield, Massachusetts 01151
Dockets: 03004632 License No: 20-03529-01

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: NUCLEAR LAUNDRY FLOODING

On September 30, 1996, INS reported that when workers reported to the INS nuclear laundry in Springfield, MA at 5 a.m. on Sunday morning, the plant was flooded. Their investigation determined that a valve was stuck open in one of their washers. Assuming the valve was full open from the time the workers left on Saturday until their return on Monday, INS estimates a maximum of 180,000 gallons of fresh water flowed through the washer. Overflow water went out the back door, through the dock area, and into the storm sewer. The storm sewer empties into the Dimmick Pond which is adjacent to the site property. The majority of the estimated 180,000 gallons of water ended up in the pond. INS representatives took samples of the water flowing into the storm sewer. Radioactive material was detected in concentrations less than the limits of 10 CFR 20 Table 3 on site. Samples of pond water from Dimmick Pond did not detect radioactive materials exceeding the Minimum Detectable Activity (MDA).

Some of the overflow water went into the underground Low Level Waste Storage facility, in the basement of the nuclear laundry. Some three or four cardboard containers will need to be re-packed. Five waste drums were floating in the three feet deep water. The entire floor of the nuclear laundry was covered with water. Water retrieved from cleanup of the nuclear laundry was disposed of into the onsite holding tanks where it was treated and tested as is done routinely, prior to release to the sanitary sewer.

Some water also flowed into the UniFirst non-nuclear laundry facility, where it soaked the carpets. This water was removed using carpet wet-vac. Water was tested and found to be less than Table 3 concentrations, and was released to the sanitary sewer.

Wipes were taken throughout the facility as the areas were cleaned and dried. All wipes were less than MDA.

INS notified the Springfield DEP on Sunday of the incident. They also contacted their Environmental Compliance consultant. They plan to inform the local citizens' coalition today.

RI has dispatched an inspector to the facility to take independent samples and monitor licensee activities.

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RI briefed the Massachusetts Radiation Control Program of the event; Massachusetts is also sending an inspector to the site.

RI Public Affairs is issuing a press release and is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

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