

DCS: 03013573/850531
Date: June 3, 1985

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-85-41

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 the Region I staff on this date.

Facility: Permagrain Products, Inc.
Media, Pennsylvania
(L/N: 37-17860-01)

30-13573

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

Subject: Licensee Facility Damaged by Tornado

At 7:00 a.m. on June 1, 1985, the Region I Duty Officer was informed by the NRC Headquarters Duty Officer that the Permagrain Products facility near Karthaus, Pennsylvania, had been reported by the licensee at 2:30 a.m. as being damaged by a tornado which struck the area at approximately 8:00 p.m. on May 31, 1985.

A Region I inspector was sent to the site and he arrived there at 1:40 p.m. on June 1 to perform a special inspection. The inspector determined that no licensed materials had been disturbed by the tornado and that no threat to either onsite or offsite personnel had been created. The licensee possesses approximately 150,000 curies of cobalt-60 in an underwater irradiator and also has several hot cells contaminated with cobalt-60 and strontium-90. The licensee's stack sampling indicated that no releases had occurred. The pool containing the cobalt-60 irradiator was unaffected by the tornado. Damage to the facility consisted of structural damage to the building and a small fire resulting from damage to a transformer. The fire was extinguished by licensee personnel. No injuries occurred to either of the two licensee personnel at the site at the time of the tornado.

There has been widespread media interest in the impact of tornados on Pennsylvania and Ohio and local media interest on this facility. The Beaver Valley Power Station, the only Region I nuclear power facility in the area struck by the tornados, was not affected. There was no reported impact on any other NRC licensed facility in Region I. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is aware of the incident at the Karthaus facility.

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Licensee:
(Reactor Licensees)

IE-3401