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FRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-V-42A Date: July 12, 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 <input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event <input type="checkbox"/> Alert <input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency <input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable
SUBJECT: RECEIPT OF CONTAMINATED PACKAGES (UPDATE)	

On July 10, 1985, Exxon Nuclear Company, Inc. reported to NRC Region V the receipt of several contaminated packages.

Further conversations between the licensee and the regional office disclosed that the contamination was due to mixed fission products from the Tihange reactor facility in Belgium. U. S. Testing Company confirmed this by conducting a gamma spectral analysis. It is believed that technicians involved in a clean-up operation in the spent fuel area at the Tihange facility inadvertently splashed liquid on 15 instrument cases which were shipped to Exxon.

The Garrett Freight Lines truck which transported the instrument cases from Pasco, Washington to Richland, Washington was surveyed by the licensee. The truck was not contaminated. The truck which transported the cases from Seattle, Washington to Pasco was located in Portland, Oregon. A State of Oregon inspector surveyed the vehicle. No contamination was found.

A second shipment containing four large containers of contaminated tools which were used at the Tihange facility have been impounded at the Seattle/Tacoma airport. Exxon health physics personnel are decontaminating the containers and tools under the surveillance of Washington State officials.

The Office of International Programs, FAA and DOT have been notified.

The State of Washington and Region V are continuing their investigation of this matter. The licensee is continuing to conduct surveys of the instrument cases and their contents.

The State of Washington has assumed the lead in issuing any press release pertaining to the domestic aspects of the incident.

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(Reactor Licensees)  
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REGION V: FORM 211  
(Revised 3/14/83)

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