

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-85-69

30 10 538

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: U.S. Dept. of Commerce
NOAA, NMFS, NEFC
Sandy Hook Facility
Highlands, New Jersey
(L/N 29-16185-01)

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

Subject: FIRE INVOLVING 75 MILLICURIES OF CARBON-14

The Headquarters Duty Officer was notified by a licensee representative on September 21, 1985, that a fire on that day caused damage to a large portion of their laboratory and resulted in the possible loss of 75 millicuries of carbon-14. The licensee representative stated that the carbon-14 was in the form of aqueous sodium bicarbonate, 50 millicuries of which was contained in 2 glass ampules containing 25 millicuries each. The remaining material was contained in numerous sealed vials.

During the fire the Fire Marshal was informed by a licensee representative of the locations of radioactive and hazardous material. It is not likely that the carbon-14 would present a hazard to the firefighters. The licensee has not evaluated the possibility of radioactive contamination remaining in the damaged laboratory due to an ongoing arson investigation, but is maintaining close control over access.

Region I will conduct an inspection to investigate the possibility of contamination and determine whether a hazard exists. Region I considers it unlikely that any significant hazard exists. The State of New Jersey has been informed of the fire.

CONTACT: M. Taylor J. Kinneman
488-1311 488-1252

DISTRIBUTION:

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------------------|----------------|
| H. St. _____ | MNBB _____ | Phillips _____ | E/W _____ | Willste _____ | Mail: ADM:DMB |
| Chairman Palladino | EDO | NRR | IE | NMSS | DOT:Trans only |
| Comm. Zech | PA | | OIA | RES | |
| Comm. Bernthal | MPA | | AEOD | | |
| Comm. Roberts | ELD | | | | |
| Comm. Asselstine | | | | | |
| ACRS | Air Rights | | INPO---- | | |
| SECY | SP | | NSAC---- | | |
| CA | | | | | |
| PDR | | | | | |
| | Regional Offices _____ | | | TMI Resident Section _____ | |
| | | | | RI Resident Office _____ | |
| | | | | Licensee: _____ | |
| | | | | (Reactor Licensees) | |

8509270100 850924
PDR I&E
PNO-I-85-069 PDR

0/1
IE-34