

October 12, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Palladino
FROM: Ben B. Hayes, Director
Office of Investigations
SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF OPENING OF OI INVESTIGATIONS

The Commission has directed that you be informed whenever OI opens a new investigation. The attached document briefly sets forth information responsive to this requirement. If you desire more detail on any OI investigation, please let me know.

Attachment:
Investigation Status Record,
Case No. 1-83-027

Distribution:
Case No. 1-83-027
OI Commission
OI s/f Notification/Opening of OI Investigation
OI-c/f
OI-r/f
Pending
5520/NOTI83/0

OI
WJWard/jh
10/11/83

OI
RAFortuna
10/ /83

OI
BBHayes
10/ /83

8509300270 850912
PDR FOIA
TERPILAB4-763 PDR

A331

A331

137

ALLEGATION DATA FORM Instructions on reverse side

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

RECEIVING OFFICE

1. Facility(ies) Involved:

(If more than 3, or if generic, write GENERIC)

(Name)

INTERNATIONAL NUTRONICS

Docket Number (if applicable)

0	3	0	0	7	0	2	6

2. Functional Area(s) Involved:

(Check appropriate box(es))

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

operations
construction
safeguards

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

onsite health and safety
offsite health and safety
emergency preparedness

other (Specify) MATERIALS

3. Description:

(Limit to 100 characters)

A	L	L	E	G	E	D		C	O	N	C	E	A	L	M	E	N	T	I	O	R	M	A
T	E	R	I	A	L			I	N	F	O	R	M	A	T	I	O	N		F	R	O	M
R	O																						

4. Source of Allegation:

(Check appropriate box)

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

contractor employee
licensee employee
NRC employee
organization (Specify)
other (Specify)

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

security guard
news media
private citizen

5. Date Allegation Received:

MM	DD	YY
09	30	83

6. Name of Individual Receiving Allegation:

(First two initials and last name) L. FRIEDMAN

7. Office:

R	E	G	I
---	---	---	---

ACTION OFFICE

8. Action Office Contact:

(First two initials and last name) R. K. CHRISTOPHER

9. FTS Telephone Number:

4	8	8	-	1	3	0	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

10. Status:

(Check one)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Open, if followup actions are pending or in progress
Closed, if followup actions are completed

11. Date Closed:

MM	DD	YY

12. Remarks:

(Limit to 50 characters)

A330

13. Allegation Number:

Office	Year	Number
0	1	8
R	3	-A-
I		
I		

A332

Tuesday, November 8, 1983

The Daily Advance—4

Dover plant told to stop radiation work

NEWARK (AP) — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has ordered a Dover firm to discontinue procedures using radioactive materials and to decontaminate its facility, the federal agency announced Monday.

The order modifying International Nutronics Inc.'s operating license was issued after an NRC inspection detected concentrations of a radioactive substance, Cobalt-60, in soil next to the outside walls of

the Morris County plant, officials said.

In addition, the NRC staff will take samples from around the site to determine whether radioactive material has tainted the groundwater, although officials said they do not believe there has been contamination.

NRC spokesman Karl Abraham said International Nutronics has a license from the agency permitting the firm to expose

surgical instruments to large doses of radiation as a means of sterilizing them.

The NRC staff inspected the facility after being notified by an unidentified telephone caller on Sept. 30 that radioactive water from a Cobalt 60 storage pool had spilled onto the floor of a building on Dec. 4, Abraham said.

Under the NRC order issued Friday, the firm must stop using radioactive materials

in irradiations, submit a decontamination plan to the NRC by Nov. 15, evaluate the facility's interior to determine its potential exposure to radiation and determine the status of contamination outside the building where the irradiation takes place, the spokesman said.

The company also must determine possible exposure to all current and former employees, he said.

NRC acts in Dover case

DOVER (AP) — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has ordered a Dover firm to discontinue procedures using radioactive materials and to decontaminate its facility, the federal agency announced yesterday.

The order modifying International Nutronics Inc.'s operating license was issued after an NRC inspection detected concentrations of a radioactive substance, Cobalt-60, in soil next to the outside walls of the Morris County plant, officials said.

In addition, the NRC staff will take samples from around the site to determine whether radioactive material has tainted the groundwater.

NRC spokesman Karl Abraham said International Nutronics has a license permitting the firm to expose surgical instruments to large doses

of radiation as a means of sterilizing them.

The NRC staff inspected the facility after being notified by a telephone caller on Sept. 30 that radioactive water had spilled onto the floor of a building on Dec. 4, Abraham said.

Under the NRC order issued Friday, the firm must stop using radioactive materials in irradiations, submit a decontamination plan to the NRC by Nov. 15, evaluate the facility's interior to determine its potential exposure to radiation and determine the status of contamination outside the building where the irradiation takes place, the spokesman said.

The company also must determine possible exposure to all current and former employees, he said.

Dover denies danger from radiation leak

Radiation leakage at International Electronics Co. on Route 46 and Schaeley Street constitutes no danger to public health, Mayor Aldo Cicchetti told the Dover Board of Aldermen last night.

Cicchetti announced findings on contamination found in the building and, to a smaller degree, outside.

The leakage came to the board's attention a week ago when the board of health was notified by the the federal Nuclear Regulatory Agency.

Upon being notified that the electronics company intended to move out of the building, the agency conducted an inspection and discovered the radiation, the result of a water spill in December of 1982.

International Electronics is a company that sterilizes surgical instruments. The process employs Cobalt 60.

The agency is in the process of supervising the removal of the contam-

inated material which includes the concrete floor and the test wells. The decontamination process is expected to take six to nine months to complete.

The building is located in the vicinity of East Dover Elementary School and Hamilton Field. The board is working with James McCahill of the Picatinny Arsenal in drawing up contingency plans in the event of a fire at the electrical company.

Cicchetti stressed the plans were strictly precautionary and noted that in the 15 years the building had been in use there have been no fires.

McCahill said he reviewed the company's records and although there are some matters to be explained, he saw no significant exposure or danger.

McCahill and Dover Attorney David Pennella are investigating the situation and are trying to determine why the town was not informed of the spill at the time it happened.

Inspectors find December 1982 radioactive spill

By PATRICE AHERN
Advance Correspondent

DOVER — A minor radioactive water spill at International Nutronics Inc. that occurred in December 1982, went unreported, until Tuesday, and undetected until last week.

Evidence of the spill was uncovered by Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspectors performing a routine inspection because the company is moving from the area.

Mayor Aldo Cicchetti made the accident public at the regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen Tuesday night. He stressed



Aldo Cicchetti

that the spill poses no health hazard. Contamination levels are extremely low, he said.

Alderman James Milonas expressed the contamination level in layman's terms: "You can drink that water for five years"

before dangerous levels build up, and you can "stand on the company property for 500 hours to equal the radiation in one x-ray."

While the spill is minor the board expressed concern about letting this type of

'What disturbs me is the amount of time that passed between the spill and the detection.'

— Mayor Aldo Cicchetti

firm move into the Dover area in the future. "What disturbs me is the amount of time that passed between the spill and the detection," Cicchetti said.

Fire Chief Gerald Sperry Jr. and Milonas have both been inside the building located on Route 46 and Schley Street to demonstrate that it is indeed safe.

James McCahill, a radiation protection specialist, acting as a private citizen with town health officials said the NCR is only required to inspect every three years, or when a move is made.

All contaminated materials are expected to be removed by December, but further precautionary clean-up may take six to eight months according to estimates given to Cicchetti.

A332

Dover: 1982 radiation leak poses no threat

By LIV OSBY

Daily Record Staff Writer

DOVER — A radiation leak that occurred at a Route 46 plant near an elementary school about a year ago poses no threat to area residents or water supplies, federal officials say.

The leak at International Nutronics Inc., which used cobalt 60 in its sterilization of surgical equipment, was brought to the attention of town officials last week, said Alderman James Milonas at last night's board of aldermen meeting.

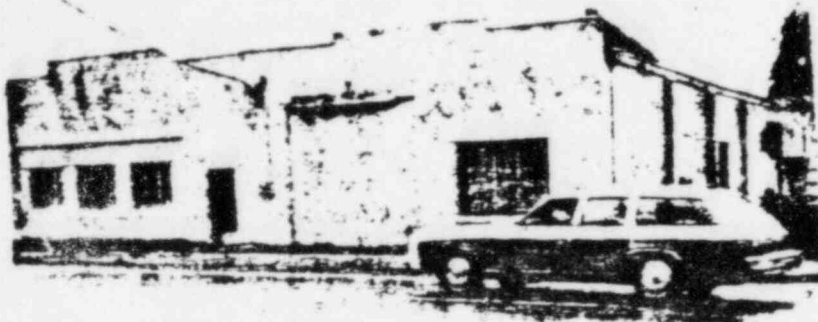
Milonas said the level of radiation found in the water and soil at the plant is not dangerous. However, he said, no one is being allowed inside the building.

The leak was discovered recently by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission during a routine check of the operation, which is in the process of closing and returning to its California headquarters, he said. After an

investigation, it was learned the contamination had occurred last December, he said.

The cleanup, which will include the removal and transportation of the contami-

nated water, soil and cement floors, will take six to nine months, Milonas said. He added that by December all of the active cobalt 60 will be removed and studies will be conducted on employees.



Daily Record/JOHN BELL

This International Nutronics Inc. plant in Dover is under probe.

Dover radiation leak investigated by NRC

DOVER — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission says it may take months before it can confirm or deny charges that a Route 46 plant covered up a radiation leak nearly a year ago.

The leak was discovered on Sept. 30 by the NRC, which notified town officials on Oct. 4, said Dr. John Glenn of the commission's Region I office in Pennsylvania.

Glenn said whether International Nutronics Inc. concealed the December 1982 leak of Cobalt 60 "will be determined later" since inspection of the site could go on for months. Company officials were not available for comment yesterday.

Glenn said that while no fine has been determined yet, the usual fine for such a leak ranges from \$400 to \$8,000. If a coverup is found, he said, any fine could be increased.

The levels of radiation found in the soil and water inside and immediately surrounding the plant are "slightly over limits," Glenn said. And while studies are continuing to determine if employees

been contaminated, he said the levels found so far are not harmful.

The leak came to light after the regulatory commission routinely inspected the plant, which uses radiation to sterilize pharmaceutical equipment, because the company is closing, he said. Normally, such inspections are done yearly or biennially, depending on what is found, Glenn said. The plant has been at the site since 1970, he said.

"The fact that (the company) did not call the NRC immediately is the scary part," said Mayor Aldo Cicchetti. "Who knows if it ever happened before?"

The incident is evidence such facilities should not be located in densely populated areas, he said, adding that once the building is vacated he will discourage a radiation facility at the site or elsewhere in town.

Officials also are concerned over possible hazards in case of fire, because water could spread the contamination, and 10,000 gallons of propane and an unknown amount of fuel oil border the plant.

A332

Nutronics denies cover-up of leak

By LIV OSBY

Daily Record Staff Writer

DOVER — An official of International Nutronics Inc. denies there was a cover-up of a radiation leak that occurred nearly a year ago at the Route 46 plant.

"At no time did we attempt to cover up the leak," said Gregory Parker, corporate counsel and vice president of the California-based company.

Parker said the leak was the result of a broken rod which allowed Cobalt 60 to enter a pool in 1974 which was immediately reported to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The break was repaired, he said, but recurred in October of 1982 when the commission was notified again.

"The NRC accepted our plan for repair and cleanup and for the last year we've

been working on it," Parker said.

And when the discovery of low-level radiation contamination was made at the plant again this past September, he said the NRC was notified once again.

But Dr. John Glenn of the NRC Region I office reiterated his earlier comment that the leak was discovered Sept. 30 during a routine inspection ordered because the facility was in the process of closing. He also said the commission was not notified of the December 1982 leak and that it was the NRC which informed the town of the leak on Oct. 4.

"We didn't notify the town because it is our belief there was no public health hazard," Parker said. "If there had been any question of a hazard, we would have notified the town immediately."

But Mayor Aldo Cicchetti said, "Anytime

there is a potential for a hazard the town should be notified. It's our right to know."

Parker said the plant is being shut down because the loss of work during the cleanup would not justify its reopening and because headquarters decided to concentrate its efforts on the West Coast.

Daily Record

Northwest New Jersey
Thursday, October 20, 1983
Page 27

Scene

Radiation zoned out

DOVER — A proposed zoning change in the Bassett Highway area that would exclude radiation facilities is the first step in the exclusion of that kind of industry elsewhere in town, officials say.

The new light industry zone, which could be approved within a month, would permit radiation only in the form of X-rays and X-ray equipment. Mayor Aldo Cicchetti said at last night's board of aldermen meeting that once the new zone is adopted, "then we will investigate other zones."

Cicchetti has said the town is too developed and too residential for such facilities, particularly in light of the recently discovered radiation leak at International Nutronics on Route 46.

A332

Radioactive waste shipment delayed

DOVER — The first shipments of radioactive waste scheduled to be transported from a radiation facility here were delayed because of problems arranging for a truck, a federal official said yesterday.

The waste, which resulted from a December 1982 radiation leak at International Nutronics, was due to be shipped last week, said Dr. John Glenn of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Region I office.

Glenn said that drilling of test wells began this week around the Route 46 plant, which sterilized

medical equipment with Cobalt 60. Results from that sampling, which should reveal any ground water contamination, are expected to be available next week, he said.

Glenn said he will meet with representatives from International Nutronics' California headquarters in about two weeks when their cleanup schedule is due. But he had no further information regarding the alleged coverup of the radiation leak at the facility. An investigation is ongoing, he said.

NRC acts in Dover case

DOVER (AP) — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has ordered a Dover firm to discontinue procedures using radioactive materials and to decontaminate its facility, the federal agency announced yesterday.

The order modifying International Nutronics Inc.'s operating license was issued after an NRC inspection detected concentrations of a radioactive substance, Cobalt-60, in soil next to the outside walls of the Morris County plant, officials said.

In addition, the NRC staff will take samples from around the site to determine whether radioactive material has tainted the groundwater.

NRC spokesman Karl Abraham said International Nutronics has a license permitting the firm to expose surgical instruments to large doses

of radiation as a means of sterilizing them.

The NRC staff inspected the facility after being notified by a telephone caller on Sept. 30 that radioactive water had spilled onto the floor of a building on Dec. 4, Abraham said.

Under the NRC order issued Friday, the firm must stop using radioactive materials in irradiations, submit a decontamination plan to the NRC by Nov. 15, evaluate the facility's interior to determine its potential exposure to radiation and determine the status of contamination outside the building where the irradiation takes place, the spokesman said.

The company also must determine possible exposure to all current and former employees, he said.