

DCS: 03007026/850828
Date: August 28, 1985

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-83-101B

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: International Nutronics, Inc
U.S. Highway 46 & Schley St.
Dover, New Jersey 07801
(L/N: 29-13848-01)

03007026

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

Subject: DECONTAMINATION OF FACILITY - UPDATE OF PNO 83-101 & 101A

In December 1982 this facility, a wet-storage irradiator, suffered an incident in which the water from the irradiator pool was pumped onto the facility floor during filtering operations. The pool water was being cleaned after having become contaminated by a leaking source or sources. Region I became aware of this incident as the result of an allegation in September 1983. Since that time, the licensee has been in the process of decontaminating the facility, prior to decommissioning. The remaining cobalt-60 sources were removed from the site a few months ago. The contaminated water in the pool was subsequently removed and decontaminated or solidified and disposed of as radioactive waste.

During the week of August 19-23, 1985, Region I conducted the latest in a series of inspections of the subject facility, and observed the removal of the contaminated steel tank which had served as the storage pool for the cobalt-60 sources. The tank was cut up, packed in shipping containers, and shipped to an authorized burial site.

Sections of the walls of the building below ground level, which were contaminated during the 1982 spill, have been removed and disposed of as radioactive waste. The walls are being replaced.

Some curie-level radioactive waste still remains at the facility, and will be disposed of within one to two weeks. Other work that remains is completion of decontamination of the walls and floor, and removal of contaminated soil from around and under the building. The contractor estimates that several weeks will be required to complete these last phases of the cleanup, and prepare a release survey.

The licensee has been monitoring surface and subsurface water, and has found no evidence of any spread of contamination.

The State of New Jersey and the Town of Dover have been kept informed throughout the decontamination and decommissioning effort. Region I will continue to monitor the progress of the cleanup, and has engaged a contractor to perform a confirmatory release survey.

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