

April 18, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-97-021

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 Region II staff in Atlanta, Georgia on this date.

Facility

Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Columbia, South Carolina
Dockets: 07001151 License No: SNM-1107

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
X Not Applicable

Subject: TWO LOW ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL RODS INADVERTENTLY SHIPPED
BY WESTINGHOUSE TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC

On April 15, 1997, the Westinghouse Electric Corporation's Commercial Nuclear Fuel Division Columbia Plant in Columbia, South Carolina informed NRC that two low-enriched uranium fuel rods could not be located. The licensee had fabricated the rods in late 1996 and had initiated an investigation to locate them on March 24, 1997. Each fuel rod contained approximately 1588 grams of uranium and 57 grams of U-235 (3.8 weight percent U-235). The licensee stated that there was no evidence of theft or unlawful diversion of the two fuel rods. On April 5, the licensee determined that the two rods might have been inadvertently included in two replica (non-fuel containing) assemblies manufactured by Westinghouse and sent to the Czech Republic for training purposes. On April 17, the licensee's investigation confirmed that the two rods were located in the replica assemblies at the Temelin reactor.

In accordance with the licensee's Fundamental Nuclear Material Control Plan, the licensee had 30 days to locate the two fuel rods after initiation of their investigation before notification of the NRC. The licensee notified the NRC of the location of the rods on April 17 and 18.

The State of South Carolina has been notified. NRC has informed the International Atomic Energy Agency staff responsible for tracking international transfers. The NRC has also notified the Department of Transportation.

The NRC, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards and Region II will conduct a special inspection of the incident.

This information is current as of 12:00 pm on April 18, 1997.

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