

DCS No.: 99990001031231

Date: January 13, 2004

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-04-01A

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

Onyx Greentree Landfill
635 Toby Road
Kersey, PA 15846

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

General Licensee

Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics
150 Dey Road
Wayne, New Jersey

Docket No.: 99990001

License No.: GENERAL LICENSE, 10 CFR 31.5

SUBJECT: UPDATE: IDENTIFICATION OF THE RADIOACTIVE SOURCE
FOUND AT LANDFILL IN KERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA

On January 13, 2004, the NRC was notified that the radioactive source discovered at the Onyx Greentree Landfill in Kersey, Pennsylvania, was identified as a backscatter gauge, distributed under a general license to Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics (Saint-Gobain), 150 Dey Road, Wayne, New Jersey. The cylindrical device was encased in an aluminum rectangular container. Assisted by a health physics consultant, the box was opened and found to contain the intact device, with all required labels. The device is an NDC Systems Model 103 thickness gauge, Serial No. 867, containing 150 millicuries of americium-241 in a source with Serial No. 737LA. This gauge was distributed to the Saint-Gobain plant in Wayne, New Jersey, in 1983. According to the manufacturer's records, this device was last leak-tested in June 2001.

The health physics consultant performed removable contamination surveys of the source and device, and determined that the source was intact and not leaking. The consultant re-packaged the device in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. The device will remain stored at the Onyx Greentree Landfill until the Saint-Gobain company is contacted to arrange for transfer or disposal.

This information is current as of 3:00 p.m., January 13, 2004.

The NRC Region 1 office plans to perform an inspection of the loss of this gauge, and the control of other generally-licensed gauges, at the Saint-Gobain facility in New Jersey. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State of New Jersey have been notified of this event. The Region I Office of Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

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