

August 6, 2004

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-04-022

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 IV staff on this date.

Facility

Horace Gill (owner of scrap metal yard)
Rt. 1, Box 105
Dumas, Arkansas

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: DISCOVERY OF RADIOACTIVE DEVICE

DESCRIPTION:

On August 5, 2004, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) recovered a device containing radioactive material from a scrap metal yard in Dumas, Arkansas. Analysis by the ADH's radiochemistry laboratory identified the isotope as krypton-85. The activity is unknown. The device dimensions are 10.2 cm (4 in) by 8.9 cm (3.5 in) by 16.5 cm (6.5 in). The device is mounted on a 25.4 cm (10 in) diameter steel plate. There are no radiation markings or labels on the device. Radiation readings at contact with the open port are 60-70 mR/h. Radiation readings at one meter from the port are 0.15 mR/h. It appears that the shutter is open and that the source is in the exposed position.

The device has been shielded and properly stored at an ADH facility. The ADH will contact DOE for assistance in disposing of the device. ADH is continuing their investigation of the matter.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from the ADH on August 5, 2004.

Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, and the Region's SLO and PAO. The information presented herein has been discussed with the ADH and is current as of 1:30 pm (CT) on August 6, 2004.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML042190481

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