

Date: August 19, 2005

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-05-024

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

Princeton Technology Center
Division of Schlumberger
Technology Center
20 Wallace Road
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Docket No.: 030-11318

License No.: 29-08636-02

SUBJECT: LOSS OF A SEALED SOURCE CONTAINING 1.5 CURIES OF TRITIUM (HYDROGEN-3)

On August 18, 2005, the Princeton Technology Center (PTC) Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) contacted Region I personnel and the Headquarter's Operation Officer to report the loss of a 1.5 Curie tritium (hydrogen-3) sealed source during transit. The source was being used in well logging operations in Webster, Texas, and became stuck in a 12-foot section of the steel well logging tool. The tool containing the source was packaged inside a 12-foot long plastic pipe. The package was shipped via Federal Express (Ground) to PTC's Princeton Junction address. PTC's RSO stated that the package was expected to be delivered at the end of July 2005, and when the package was not delivered at the expected time, he contacted Federal Express (Ground). Federal Express (Ground) reported that the last documented location of the package was at the Federal Express (Ground) facility in Trenton, New Jersey. PTC's RSO said that Federal Express (Ground) recently completed its investigation and concluded that the material was lost. PTC's RSO further stated that he had requested a copy of the investigation report from Federal Express (Ground).

The States of New Jersey and Texas were notified of this event. The State of New Jersey contacted Federal Express (Ground) and was told that the package was damaged at the Trenton facility and the contents of the package were thrown out. NRC Region I is performing a special inspection at the PTC facility on Friday, August 19, 2005. If the contents of the source were released in the public domain, it is unlikely to create a dose in excess of the public dose limits.

The Region I Office of Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquiries. This information is current as of 11:15 a.m., August 19, 2005.

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