

November 15, 2005

THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL November 17, 2005.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-05- 017

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.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
ProTechnics	<input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event
Division of Core Laboratories	<input type="checkbox"/> Alert
Kilgore, TX	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
Texas Agreement State Licensee	<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

SUBJECT: FOLLOWUP ON LOST OR MISSING RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

DESCRIPTION: On November 4, 2005, the state of Texas Department of State Health Services (the State) notified the NRC Operations Center (EN 42118, also EN 42130 reported by the New Mexico Radiation Control Bureau) concerning a lost or missing shipment of ceramic beads labeled with antimony-124. The shipment was packaged in Albuquerque, New Mexico, by Spectra Tek Services, a wholly owned subsidiary of Core Laboratories, for shipment to the ProTechnics Division of Core Laboratories located in Kilgore, Texas. The shipment consisted of seven packages: four fiberboard boxes and three 20-gallon drums. All of the packages were received at the Kilgore facility; however, one of the 20-gallon drums was empty. The drum should have contained an ammo box with two 25-pound lead shipping pigs, each containing 40 millicuries of antimony-124 in vials used for subsurface field studies in the oil and gas industry.

The State is conducting an investigation of this event and has visited all of the transportation terminals in Texas where the shipping vehicle is known to have stopped. On November 15, 2005, the State informed NRC that they have contacted the Department of Energy and discussed the possibility of conducting a flyover of the transportation route in an effort to locate the missing source. The State plans to issue a press release.

New Mexico has reported that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Department of Homeland Security are aware of the missing material.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from the state of Texas on November 4, 2005. Region IV offered assistance to the states and has been following up on the investigation. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, STP, and the Region's SLO and PAO.

This information has been discussed with the state and is current as of 3:00 p.m. (CST) on November 15, 2005.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML053190464

CONTACTS: Vivian Campbell
817-860-8143
vhc@nrc.gov

Charles Cain
817-860-8186
clc@nrc.gov