

December 20, 2005

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

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, Arlington, Texas, staff on this date.

Facility

ProTechnics
Division of Core Laboratories
Kilgore, TX
Texas Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: FOLLOWUP ON LOST OR MISSING RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL - UPDATE

DESCRIPTION: On November 4, 2005, the state of Texas Department of State Health Services (the State) notified the NRC Operations Center (EN 42118) concerning a lost or missing shipment of ceramic beads labeled with antimony-124. (EN 42130 reported by the New Mexico Radiation Control Bureau, PNO-IV-05-017 and PNO-IV-017A also address this issue.)

Spectra Tek Services located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, packaged and shipped seven packages containing radioactive material to ProTechnics Division of Core Laboratories located in Kilgore, Texas. All of the packages were received at the Kilgore facility; however, one of the packages that should have contained antimony-124 was empty.

On November 15, 2005, the State informed NRC that they had contacted the Department of Energy (DOE) to discuss conducting aerial surveys to search for the missing source.

UPDATE: As of December 20, 2005, DOE completed aerial and ground surveys of the truck terminals and surrounding areas where the truck stopped on its route within Texas, ground and aerial surveys of the cities of Dallas and Austin, and ground surveys of Tyler and Abilene. DOE also conducted aerial surveys of the Interstate-35 corridor between Dallas and Austin. The sources were not found by any of the surveys to date.

Region IV has continued to monitor the State's activities to locate the material and received this information by phone from the state of Texas on December 20, 2005. Region IV has informed the OEDO, NMSS, STP, and the Region's SLO and PAO.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the state and is current as of 10:30 a.m. on December 20, 2005.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML 053540424

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

Leonard Wert
817-860-8106
lxw@nrc.gov