

DCS No. 99990001000831  
Date: September 12, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-00-28

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**

American Ash Recycling Corporation of  
Pennsylvania  
1072 Roosevelt Ave.  
York, Pennsylvania 17404

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

Docket No.: N/A

License No.: N/A

SUBJECT: CESIUM 137 SEALED SOURCES FOUND IN INCINERATOR  
ASH IN YORK, PENNSYLVANIA

An NRC resident inspector at Peach Bottom received information regarding an event involving radioactive material at a facility in York, PA. RI DNMS followed up by contacting the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to obtain further information.

American Ash Recycling Corporation of Pennsylvania (AAR) is a company that receives incinerator ash from two incinerators in York, PA, and Montgomery Co., MD. The ash is sorted at AAR into groups including ferrous and non-ferrous metals. The ash is held at AAR's York facility for periods up to several months until market conditions are favorable for its sale.

Two shipments of ferrous ash from AAR triggered radiation alarms when they arrived at Tube City, Inc. in Pittsburgh, PA, on September 1, 2000, and at CitiSteel USA in Claymont, DE, on August 31, 2000. The shipments were returned to AAR's York facility where a consultant employed by AAR identified two radioactive rod sources in the shipments that were approximately 3.5 inches long and 0.25 inch in diameter. The sources had removable contamination of approximately 50,000 cpm. No identifying marks were immediately legible on the sources. The sources were placed in a plastic bag in a locked, shielded container at the facility. The PADEP responded to this event because it was not known at the time whether the sources contained AEA material traceable to an NRC licensee. PADEP subsequently determined that the radionuclide was Cesium-137, approximately 2 millicuries per rod.

Radioactive material was detected on September 8, 2000, in another shipment of ash that was received at the Pittsburgh facility and originated from AAR. The shipment was again returned to AAR's York facility. Detailed surveys of this shipment have not been conducted. Representatives from PADEP and NRC RI will be at the site on September 13, 2000. USEPA is arranging for additional examination and final disposal of the sources.

The states of Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Maryland have been informed.

All information is current as of 2:00 p.m. on September 12, 2000.

The Office of Public Affairs is available to respond to media inquiries.

Contact: Eric H. Reber  
(610) 337-5276



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