

July 21, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-00-028

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 Region II staff (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

Facility	Licensee Emergency Classification
Florida State University	Notification of Unusual Event
(An Agreement State Licensee)	Alert
Tallahassee, Florida	Site Area Emergency
	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: RADIOACTIVE SPILL

On July 21, 2000, State officials advised the Region of a radioactive spill, which occurred on July 6, 2000, in a radiation laboratory assigned to the Chemistry Department, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida. Preliminary information gathered by the University's Radiation Safety Officer indicates that there was a spread of contamination, both inside and outside of the building, to include the vehicle and residence of one of the staff members.

University officials, including the Radiation Safety Officer, were not aware of this event until July 17, 2000, and subsequently the University notified the State of Florida on July 20, 2000.

On July 6, 2000, while physically removing radioactive material from a radiation laboratory in the Chemistry Department, located in the Hoffman Teaching Laboratory, a spill occurred during the movement of a glove box which was situated on a wheeled dolly. The laboratory staff attempted to conduct clean up operations, but did not have any instrumentation to conduct radiation surveys. The staff apparently assumed that their clean up efforts were successful, and did not report this event to the Radiation Safety Office. The isotope and quantity of material has not yet been fully determined; however, the material appears to be an energetic beta emitter and presumed to be strontium-90 (Sr-90).

On July 21, 2000, State officials were dispatched to the University and initiated a detailed investigation of this event.

Currently, no media interest has been expressed in this event.

Technical assistance was offered by the Region, but was declined by the State. State officials will continue to keep Region II informed of the

results of their investigation.

This information is current as 1:00 p.m. EDT, July 21, 2000.

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