

October 27, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-00-046

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

Newell Recycling
(Non-Licensee)
Atlanta, GA
Dockets: N/A

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: SOURCE FOUND IN SCRAP METAL

The Georgia Radioactive Materials Program notified the NRC that a radioactive source had been identified in a trailer of scrap metal located at the Newell Recycling scrap metal facility. Personnel from the Georgia Program conducted surveys of the trailer, isolated the source, and conducted tests for leakage and contamination. The source was not leaking. Initial radiation levels outside the trailer were measured up to 300 microrem per hour and 3 rem per hour inside the trailer in the immediate vicinity of the unshielded source. Following the removal of the source from the trailer, the radiation levels of the remaining scrap metal were determined to be at background. The source was identified as being manufactured by the 3M Company in July of 1984, Model 3F1L, serial number 1389, and containing 100 millicuries of strontium-90 as sealed glass microspheres. The source is now shielded, secured, and stored at the Newell Recycling facility until appropriate disposal can be arranged.

The Georgia Program is attempting to trace the distribution and former owner of the source. This type of source is used in manufacturing process control systems for thickness and density type measurements.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence from the Georgia Radioactive Materials Program at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 25, 2000. This information is current as of 5:00 p.m., October 26, 2000.

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