

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION**

**October 27, 2000**

**PNO-RIII-00038**

**LICENSEE:** Southeast Missouri State University

**EVENT NUMBER:**

**FACILITY:** Southeast Missouri State University

**EVENT DATE:** October 26, 2000

**UNIT:**

**REGION:** 3

**Rx INFO:**

**LOCATION CODE:**

**DOCKETS:**

**CITY:** Cape Girardeau

**STATE:** Missouri

**EMERGENCY CLASS:**

**SUBJECT:** Potential Overexposure

**CONTACT:**

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**DESCRIPTION:**

Southeast Missouri State University of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, on October 26, 2000, notified the NRC of the potential for an individual, who worked at the university temporarily in 1997, to have received a committed effective dose equivalent of about 2 rem due to americium-241 intake. The university currently considers this individual a member of the general public with an annual dose limit of 0.1 rem.

The individual, who for a brief time in January 1997 did maintenance work for the university, would have received the americium intake while doing maintenance work in the basement of the university's Magill Hall.

The potential overexposure was discovered after bioassay tests were conducted on 42 people who were believed to have been in the contaminated area over the past several years. Only one individual's results were positive from the group of 36 whose results have been received. Results on the remaining 6 are pending. This potential overexposure is in addition to the potential overexposure of a consultant for the university who worked in the Magill Hall basement this summer. The consultant also received an intake of americium-241.

NRC Region III (Chicago) conducted a special inspection at the university beginning June 22, 2000, during which inspectors performed independent surveys and reviewed the circumstances surrounding the americium-241 contamination.

The NRC has reviewed and approved the University's Decontamination Plan and work is underway to clean up the contaminated areas of the university. To date, several contaminated areas have been cleaned up and released.

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The NRC's inspection activities associated with the contamination and cleanup are continuing. Region III will be conducting an inspection to review the circumstances associated with the potential overexposure.

The State of Missouri has been notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with Southeast Missouri State University. The information in this preliminary notification is current as of 1:00 p.m. CDT on October 27, 2000.