

November 27, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-00-041

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 III staff on this date.

**Facility**

Johns Manville International  
Johns Manville International  
Waukegan, Illinois  
Docket:  
License: State of Illinois General Licensee

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: LOST GENERALLY-LICENSED GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On November 22, 2000, the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) notified Region III (Chicago) that it had received a report of a missing gauge containing a 20 millicurie sealed source of cesium-137. The source was mounted in an Ohmart model SH-F1 source holder and was under a general license. The gauge was removed from an assembly line in July or August 1999.

IDNS surveyed warehouses and other buildings throughout the licensee's facility and other licensee Illinois locations, but were unable to locate the source. The detector (non-radioactive) portion of the gauge was recovered.

The licensee believes that the source was sent to the Pheasant Run Landfill in Wisconsin in early March 2000. A possibility exists that the gauge may also have been sent to another licensee facility in Colorado, which the licensee is investigating.

The State of Illinois is continuing its investigation into this matter.

The States of Wisconsin and Colorado have been notified.

IDNS notified Region III of the lost gauge at 5:23 p.m. EST on November 22, 2000. The information in this preliminary notification has been discussed with the State of Illinois. This information is current as of 10:30 a.m. CST on November 27, 2000.

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