

December 5, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-00-043

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**

Facility Name: Joseph Behr Metals, Inc.

Licensee:

City, State: Rockford, IL

Docket:

License: Agreement State licensee

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

Notification of Unusual Event

Alert

Site Area Emergency

General Emergency

Not Applicable

SUBJECT: UNSHIELDED RADIATION SOURCE FOUND AMONG SCRAP METAL

DESCRIPTION:

On December 1, 2000, Joseph Behr Metals, Inc., a scrap metal dealer, notified the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety that an unshielded radiation source had been found among scrap metal in a truck entering the dealer's facility. The source was detected by a portal radiation monitor.

The source was determined to be an approximate 8 millicurie (296 MBq) cesium-137 source which may have been from a moisture density gauge. Radiation levels of 130 mR/hr were detected at a six-inch distance from the source. Based on a search, no other gauge components were present in the scrap load. The source is unmarked and may have been through a shredder.

The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety dispatched personnel to the site. The area around the source was secured. The source was then field leak tested, double bagged, labeled, and locked in a secure facility at the site. The field leak test was negative. Joseph Behr Metals will dispose of the source to an authorized facility.

The NRC Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards and the Office of State and Tribal Programs were notified of this incident.

The State agency notified the NRC Operations Center of this incident at 4:06 p.m. CST on December 4, 2000. This information is current as of that time.

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