

December 20, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-00-047

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

Southeast Missouri State University
Southeast Missouri State University
Cape Girardeau, Missouri
Docket:
License:

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: MISSING SOURCE

DESCRIPTION:

Southeast Missouri State University on December 20, 2000, notified the NRC of a missing sealed source containing 20 millicuries of strontium-90. The source, authorized on the University's license in 1965 and currently on their NRC license, was approved for use in a gas chromatograph, a device that is used to analyze chemicals and samples. The device typically is used in chemistry laboratories.

The missing source was discovered during an inventory of radioactive materials that university officials are conducting as part of the remediation activities ongoing at the university. The remediation activities are a result of an americium-241 incident (Reference: PNO-III-00-25 and 25A).

The State of Missouri has been notified. University officials and their consultant have not had any success in their search for the missing strontium-90 sealed source. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with Southeast Missouri State University. The information in this preliminary notification is current as of noon CST on December 20, 2000.

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