

December 29, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-00-046A

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

Ohmart Vega Corporation
Ohmart Vega Corporation
Cincinnati, Ohio
Docket:
License: Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: UPDATE - MISSING FIXED GAUGE SOURCES

DESCRIPTION:

This is an update to the Preliminary Notification issued on December 20, 2000. On December 19, 2000, the Ohio Department of Health notified Region III (Chicago) that it had received a report from the Ohmart Vega Corporation of Cincinnati, Ohio (a company which manufactures fixed gauging devices) that a sealed source was missing. The sealed source, belonging to the Ohmart Vega Corporation, was discovered at the Marion Steel Company in Marion, Ohio. When it investigated the discovery of the source at Marion Steel, Ohmart discovered that three additional gauge sources were missing and may have been sent to recycling companies. Ohmart removes the radiation sources from the gauging devices and sends the device, with the source removed, to recycling companies.

As a result of further investigation stemming from the original event, Ohio Department of Health inspectors notified Region III that they recovered one of the additional three missing sealed sources. The source, which was undamaged, was found at Midwest Guardian in Wapakoneta, Ohio, a recycling company. The source originally contained 5 millicuries (185 Mbq) of cesium-137.

State inspectors have been unable to locate the remaining two missing sources, despite conducting surveys at several locations. The two missing sources originally each contained ten millicuries (370 Mbq) of cesium-137.

The State of Ohio will continue to follow-up on this matter and is planning to conduct an inspection at the Ohmart facility in the near future. The state has completed all of the surveys that were planned in an attempt to locate the remaining two missing sources.

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

The information in this preliminary notification has been discussed with the State of Ohio. This information is current as of 11:30 a.m. CST on December 29, 2000.

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