

DCS No.: 99990001011002
Date: October 5, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-01-26A

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 I staff on this date.

Facility

Edgewater Manor Apartments
120 Elm Street
Beverly, NJ 08010

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Docket No.: 99990001

License No.: General Licensee

SUBJECT: BROKEN TRITIUM EXIT SIGN - UPDATE

Region I dispatched an inspector to the facility on October 2, 2001, to obtain additional details of the incident and perform radiological surveys. The facility is a large apartment complex consisting of several separate buildings. Each of the buildings has two entrances and a tritium exit sign is installed at each entrance. These signs have a white translucent cover and a red outer cover with the word EXIT etched out. Approximately 2 weeks ago, a damaged exit sign was identified in Building S of the apartment complex during a fire safety inspection. On October 2, 2001, a maintenance worker replaced the damaged sign with a newly acquired exit sign.

The inspector noted that part of the front cover (plastic) of the sign was shattered and two tubes ("I", and part of "E") were broken. The manager was unable to determine when the sign was damaged, but the maintenance worker stated that the damage must have occurred quite some time ago because he did not find any pieces of the sign or broken tubes in the vicinity of the location of the sign.

The sign was manufactured by Safety Light Corporation (Model No. 2000, Serial No. A-49660) and distributed by Isolite. It contained 7.5 curies of tritium as of September 1994. The inspector verified that the damaged sign was placed in a plastic bag that also contains shredded paper, and the plastic bag was placed inside a carton. Region I has confirmed that the distributor (Isolite) is prepared to accept the damaged sign and has sent packaging and shipping instructions to the apartment manager to return the damaged sign.

The inspector collected wipe samples from the location where the sign was installed, stairs, entrance door and hands of three individuals who had handled the damaged sign. The three individuals had washed their hands following the handling of the damaged sign. The wipe samples were analyzed by the laboratory in NRC Region I. Wipe samples collected from the hands of the three workers did not indicate any significant residual contamination. Maximum removable contamination of 9400 dpm/100 sq.cm. was at the location where the sign was installed. This location is approximately 8 feet above the floor. Maximum removable contamination identified on the damaged sign itself was well below the NRC release limit of 1.2E8 dps/100 sq.cm. Other locations did not appear to have any significant removable contamination.

This information is current as of 8:00 a.m. October 5, 2001.

The State of New Jersey has been notified of this event. The Region I Office of Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

Contact: Sattar Lodhi
(610) 337- 5364

Judith Joustra
(610) 337-5355

DISTRIBUTIONS:

BY E-MAIL:

<u>OWFN</u>	<u>TWFN</u>	<u>LST</u>
Chairman Meserve	IRO	PDR
Comm. Diaz	ACRS	
Comm. McGaffigan Jr.	NMSS	
Comm. Merrifield	OIG	
Comm. Dicus	RES	
OIP		
OCA		
OGC		
EDO		
OE		
NRR		
SECY		
Regional Offices		

BY FAX:

DOT:Trans

INPO

NSAC

RI Resident Office

Licensee: _____
 (Reactor Licensees)

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\PNFORM

OFFICE	RI/DNMS	RI/DNMS	RI/DNMS	RI/PA	RI/SLO
NAME	Slodhi ASL	Jjoustra JAJ	G Pangburn FMC	Dscrenci DPS	Rbores RJB
DATE	10/05/01	10/05/01	10/05/01	10/05/01	10/05/01