

July 20, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-01-022A

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 Region II staff (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

Facility

Ameristeel, Inc.
(Jacksonville, FL Facility)
Baldwin, FL
Dockets/License: Non-Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: UPDATE ON MELTED CESIUM SOURCE

A radioactive source was reported to have been melted at the facility on July 13, 2001. The Florida Bureau of Radiation Control (the Bureau) responded to the event with their mobile laboratory and a survey team, and determined that the source was cesium-137. The team also determined that there were no measured releases of radioactive material outside the facility or contaminated personnel as a result of this event. The facility contracted with GTS Duratek for clean up of the facility.

The contractor has been on-site this week, and has submitted a Health and Safety Plan to the Bureau for clean-up of the facility. The plan includes a training plan for personnel involved at the site for clean up, operational procedures, the handling of contaminated materials, and includes criteria for release of the facility for unrestricted use. The Bureau currently has the plan under review and representatives have stated that the facility must meet the State's equivalent of 10 CFR 20.1402, Radiological criteria for unrestricted use. The contractor has been conducting radiation worker training and respiratory protection training, and 22 persons were provided whole body counting for the uptake of cesium-137. The tests confirmed that there was no internal contamination of the facility personnel.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the State and is current as of 11:30 a.m., Friday, July 20, 2001.

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