

November 30, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-052

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 IV staff on this date.

Facility

Weyerhaeuser Technology Center
Federal Way, Washington
Docket Number: NA
License Number: WN-L083-1

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: LEAKING SOURCE

DESCRIPTION: At 1:10 p.m. (CDT) on November 30, 2001, the State of Washington notified the NRC Operations Center and Region IV office that a source that had been in storage for approximately two years was discovered to be leaking.

The licensee provided telephone notification to the State of Washington that leakage was discovered when a 3 millicurie Promethium 147 source was about to be re-installed in an AMBERTEC Oy model BFT-1 formation tester. The radioactive source was believed to have been removed from the formation tester by licensee personnel in mid 1999. The source was placed into a storage container kept under the licensee's control. The un-sourced device was subsequently shipped to the manufacturer in Finland for repair. The device was recently returned to the licensee's facility. A Finnish technician accompanying the device tested the source prior to installation and discovered contamination on the source and in the storage container. No contamination was detected on the outside of the container, in the storage location, or at the work bench where the device is presumed to have been disassembled two years ago. State of Washington Division of Radiation Protection staff will be on-site today to investigate.

Region IV has informed NMSS, OPA, OEDO and the State of Washington.

This information is current as of 2:00 p.m. (CDT) on November 30, 2001.

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