

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE** PNO-II-01-041

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**

Trinity Marine Products  
(Non - Licensee)  
Ashland City, TN

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

Subject: CONTAMINATED METAL

The Tennessee Division of Radiological Health (the Division) notified the NRC Region II office that the Trinity Marine Products company (the company) had reported receiving contaminated steel that was imported from Poland. Scrap metal from the company was rejected by the Ameristeel metal recycling facility in Jackson, TN and returned to the company in Ashland City, TN. The Division responded to the event and determined that the metal was contaminated with cobalt-60, and initial readings ranged from 10 to 20 microrem per hour on contact.

The company reported that the metal is imported in sheet form from Poland, and the metal came through the Port of New Orleans, LA. Company officials are working with the Division to identify the source of the metal and if other metals from the shipment have been distributed to other locations. The company is a shipbuilding company and reported that two barges are under construction that may have some of the contaminated metal. The company is bringing in a consultant for radiological assistance.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Division of Radiological Health. The NRC Operations Center, the Office of State and Tribal Programs, the NRC Region IV office, and the Environmental Protection Agency in Atlanta, GA have been notified. This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of Wednesday, December 19, 2001.

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