

February 13, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-009

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

Brigham Young University
Laie, Hawaii

General Licensee Pursuant to
10 CFR 31.5

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: MISSING TRITIUM EXIT SIGNS

DESCRIPTION:

At 4:15 p.m. (EST) on February 8, 2002, a representative of Brigham Young University, Laie, Hawaii, notified the NRC Operations Center that nine exit signs containing a nominal 0.37 terabequerels (10 curies) of tritium each were discovered missing from a campus storage area. The signs were placed in storage during renovation of the campus auditorium between June 2000 and January 2002. The licensee stated that the signs could not be located when they were to be reinstalled after the renovation work was completed in the auditorium. The signs were manufactured by SRB Technologies, Inc., between 1992 and 1993. Discussions with the licensee indicate that the exit signs are presumed to have been installed at another location. The licensee and Region IV are investigating the incident.

The State of Hawaii has been informed.

Region IV received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the licensee on February 8, 2002. Region IV has informed NMSS, OEDO, and the region's SLO.

This information has been discussed with the general licensee and is current as of 1:45 p.m. (CST) on February 13, 2002.

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