

April 16, 2002

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-02-015**

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 III staff on this date.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Ford Motor Company	<input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event
Dearborn, Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Alert
Docket:	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
License: General Licensee (10CFR 31.5)	<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

**SUBJECT: Lost Static Eliminator Device**

**DESCRIPTION:**

On April 15, 2002, Ford Motor Company located in Dearborn, Michigan, a general licensee, reported the loss of a static eliminator device to the NRC Operations Center. The device contained a nominal 10 millicurie polonium-210 sealed source. The device was an NRD Model P-2021 static eliminator.

The device was used to air spray automotive parts to reduce the static charge before the parts were painted. The device was last used in mid-August 2001. An extensive search was conducted to recover the missing device, but it was not found.

The polonium-210 source is encapsulated and contained within the body of the static eliminator. Therefore, this device does not pose a significant radiological hazard to the public.

The State of Michigan and the Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards were notified of the event. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with the licensee.

The licensee notified the NRC Operations Center of this event on 4:00 p.m. EST on April 15, 2002. This information is current as of 9:00 a.m. CST on April 16, 2002.

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