

May 6, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-02-020

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.

Facility

Boston Scientific
Spencer, IN
Docket:
License: General

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: LOST STATIC ELIMINATOR SOURCES

DESCRIPTION:

On May 3, 2002, Boston Scientific, located in Spencer, Indiana, a general licensee, reported the loss of five static eliminators, each containing approximately 10 microcuries of Po-210. The licensee believed the devices were shipped to a vendor (NRD, Grand Island, New York) on or about April 3, 2002; however, the vendor reported that the devices had not been received. An extensive facility search was conducted to recover the missing devices, but was unsuccessful.

The polonium-210 sources are encapsulated and contained within the static eliminator. Therefore, these devices do not pose a significant radiological hazard to the public.

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

Boston Scientific notified the NRC Operations Center of this event at 3:25 p.m. (EST) on May 3, 2002. This information is current as of 12:30 p.m. CST on May 6, 2002.

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