

This Event is not for public disclosure per Agreement State request until 7/19/2002.

July 16, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-038

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

Spectra Tek
Albuquerque, New Mexico
License No.: TA172-21
New Mexico Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: LOST SHIPMENT OF SCANDIUM-46

DESCRIPTION:

On July 16, 2002, the New Mexico Radiation Licensing and Registration Program (the Program) notified the NRC Operations Center that a shipment of scandium-46 had been lost during shipment.

Spectra Tek, a New Mexico licensee, informed the Program on July 16, 2002 that a shipment of six packages of scandium-46 was shipped on July 9, 2002, by Federal Express to Protechnics located in Lafayette, Louisiana. Each package contained 1.48 gigabequerels (40 millicuries) of scandium-46 to be used for subsurface tracer studies. Five of the six packages arrived at their destination on July 10, 2002. The licensee promptly notified Federal Express who determined that all six packages were last accounted for on July 9, 2002 in Memphis, Tennessee. Federal Express is continuing to search for the package.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by phone from the State on July 16, 2002. Region IV has informed NMSS, OEDO, OSTP, the IAT and the Region's PAO and SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 11:45 a.m. on July 16, 2002.

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