

DCS No.: 99999999021017

Date: October 17, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-02-018

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 I staff on this date.

Facility

Crest Foam Industries
100 Carol Place
Moonachie, New Jersey

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event

Alert

Site Area Emergency

General Emergency

Not Applicable

Docket No.: N/A

License No.: General Licensee

SUBJECT: UNAUTHORIZED REMOVAL OF A NUCLEAR DENSITY GAUGE FROM STORAGE

On October 17, 2002, at approximately 10:15 a.m., the manufacturing manager notified Region I of the failure to locate a Texas Nuclear Model 5201 density gauge containing 100 millicuries of cesium-137 source material. The gauge's serial number is B764 and source serial number is GV731. The gauge had been stored with its shutter locked closed in an unsecure area near a maintenance shop for the past five years. The manufacturing manager stated that the gauge was accounted for during the January 18, 2002, audit and that he recalled seeing the gauge in May, 2002. However, interviews and on-site physical search efforts to find the gauge over the past few days have failed. Discussions the manufacturing manager held with three associated scrap metal facilities in the event the gauge was improperly discarded were also unsuccessful.

Immediately after noticing the gauge missing, the manufacturing manager posted flyers advertising a \$500 reward. He plans to notify local police, the Headquarters Operations Officer, and to file a 30-day report with the NRC.

The State of New Jersey has been notified. Region I is prepared to respond to media inquiries. This information is current as of 2:00 p.m., October 17, 2002.

Contact:

Leanne Harrison
(610) 337-6926

John D. Kinneman
(610) 337-5252

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