

September 15, 2003

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE** PNO-II-03-018

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 Region II staff (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

**Facility**

ABB, Inc. (General Licensee)  
650 Ackerman Road  
Columbus, Ohio

Docket/License: 999-90002

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

X

Subject: MISSING SEALED SOURCE

On September 11, 2003, the General Licensee reported to the Headquarters Operations Center that they had discovered a strontium-90 (Sr-90) sealed source containing approximately 150 millicuries (mCi) missing from their inventory. The general licensee indicated that they had removed three fixed gauges from a carpet manufacturing facility located in Glasgow, Virginia on July 30, 2003, and returned them to their Columbus, Ohio facility on August 8, 2003. The general licensee indicated that the three gauges were placed into two drums with the shutters closed and secured. On September 11, 2003, the general licensee went to remove the gauges from storage to initiate disposal and could not locate one of the Sr-90 sealed sources. The licensee conducted area radiation surveys and was unable to locate the sealed source at their facility. On September 11, 2003, the general licensee dispatched a service representative to the Glasgow, Virginia facility and a local landfill to conduct area radiation surveys to try to locate the sealed source there. As of September 15, 2003, the sealed source had not been located. The missing sealed source was an Amersham Model No. SIF.D1, Serial Number 3458, contained in an Advanz fixed gauge. The sealed source was last leak tested on July 30, 2003, with negative results. Region II has dispatched an inspector to followup on this event.

Region II notified the Commonwealth of Virginia about this event. The information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 2:15 p.m. on September 15, 2003.

Contact: Bryan A. Parker  
404-562-4728

Wade T. Loo  
404-562-4727