

January 5, 2004

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-052A

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

ShopKo Stores
Bellevue, Nebraska
License No.: GL0040
Nebraska General Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: LOST TRITIUM EXIT SIGNS - CORRECTED COPY

DESCRIPTION:

This corrected copy is being issued to identify the correct name of the facility, ShopKo Stores. (The original PN identified the licensee by the name of "Shop Go Stores.")

On December 18, 2003, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) notified NRC's Operations Center that 17 tritium exit signs were missing at a general licensee's facility in Bellevue, Nebraska.

The State of Nebraska reported that ShopKo Stores, the Nebraska general licensee, could not account for 17 tritium exit signs. The signs were manufactured in July 1984. As of the date of manufacture, 17 exit signs contained 777 gigabequerels (21 curies) tritium for each exit sign. The NDHHS general licensee reported that three major renovations have taken place in the store since July 1984. The licensee believes that during one or more of these renovations these signs were lost. A review of store records indicate that 11 new signs were purchased in 1994. A search of the store by the licensee did not find any of the missing signs.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on December 19, 2003. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, OSTP, and the Region's PAO and SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 3:00 p.m. (CST) on December 19, 2003.

The corrected information has been provided by the State and is current as of 8:30 a.m. (CST) on January 5, 2004.

CONTACTS: Jacqueline D. Cook
817-860-8132
JDC1@nrc.gov

Elmo Collins
817-860-8106
eec@nrc.gov