

DCS No.: 03000882061115
Date: February 1, 2007

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-06-013A

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

Princeton University
Office of Environmental Health and Safety
262 Alexander Street
Princeton, NJ 08544

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Docket No.: 030-00882
License No.: 29-05185-24

SUBJECT: LEAKING STRONTIUM-90 PLATED SOURCE IDENTIFIED AT UNIVERSITY (UPDATE)

On November 15, 2006, the Princeton University Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) notified the NRC Operations Center that a source containing 180 microcuries of strontium-90 (Sr-90) was found to be leaking on November 13, 2006. The RSO reported that contamination was identified in two rooms in the University's Jadwin Hall where the Sr-90 source was used and stored. Other sealed sources, stored in the same cabinet drawer with the Sr-90 source, were cross-contaminated. No personnel contamination was identified. NRC Region 1 performed a reactive inspection on November 22, 2006, to follow up on the licensee's notification. The two rooms were completely decontaminated. The licensee submitted a written report, in accordance with 10 CFR 30.50(c)(2), on December 15, 2006. On January 31, 2007, a urine bioassay of the only researcher who handled the Sr-90 source confirmed no detectable intake of Sr-90. The leaking source and other sources that were cross-contaminated are packaged for disposal in a configuration that eliminates the potential for further contamination.

The Region 1 Office of Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

The State of New Jersey has been notified. The information is current as of 4:00 p.m., February 1, 2007.

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