

General Information or Other	Event Number: 42727
Rep Org: TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Licensee: UNKNOWN Region: 4 City: State: TX County: License #: Agreement: Y Docket: NRC Notified By: RUBEN CORTEZ HQ OPS Officer: PETE SNYDER	Notification Date: 07/25/2006 Notification Time: 14:52 [ET] Event Date: 07/21/2006 Event Time: [CDT] Last Update Date: 07/25/2006
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: AGREEMENT STATE	Person (Organization): THOMAS FARNHOLTZ (R4) GREG MORELL (NMSS)

Event Text

AGREEMENT STATE REPORT - RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL IDENTIFIED IN ARC FURNACE ASH

The State provided the following information via email:

"On Friday, July 21, 2006, a truck containing electric arc furnace (EAF) dust departed the LeTourneau, Inc facility at 2400 South McArthur Blvd., Longview, TX. The dust is commonly referred to as K061 waste and is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste that is a normal byproduct of steel production. A gate monitor alarmed at the Horsehead Resource Development Company, Inc. (Horsehead) in Rockwood, TN, indicating the possible presence of gamma emitting radioactive elements contained in the truck. An alarm of this type is typically associated with the melting of a volatile radioactive source.

"The truck was returned over the weekend of July 22 - 23, 2006 to the LeTourneau facility in Longview, TX, where it was isolated. On Monday July 24, 2006 LeTourneau obtained the services of a consultant to identify the material in the truck. Surveys of the truck by LeTourneau, on the morning of July 25, 2006, indicated the presence of Cesium-137 in the K061 waste. Cs-137 is a byproduct material that is commonly used in sources and devices that are distributed under both general and specific licenses for various industrial applications.

"After determining that the K061 in the truck was contaminated with Cs-137 a full survey of the furnace facility was performed and samples collected to quantify the activity of Cs-137. Radiation survey of the facility determined that exposure level in the facility ranged from 50 µR/hr to 3000 µR/hr. Highest readings were in the ash hopper and silo. LeTourneau does not believe that there were any significant doses to their employees or public; do to the location of the highest reading. LeTourneau plans to have result for the samples collected before the end of the week.

"LeTourneau notified the State immediately after determining that the K061 was contaminated with Cs-137."

The state is investigating this incident.

Texas Incident No.: I-8353