

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

X005

Date: May 29, 1980

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This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff as of this date.

Facility: Diamond Shamrock Chemical Co.  
Fairport Harbor, OH  
Expired License No. 34-12021-01

SUBJECT: LICENSEE UNABLE TO ACCOUNT FOR GAUGE CONTAINING Cs-137 SEALED SOURCE

In conducting a followup on the above expired license, Region III (Chicago) requested information regarding the disposition of any licensed material procured under that license. Licensee representatives have not been able to account for a Nuclear-Chicago Corporation gauge which contained a sealed source of approximately 500 millicuries of cesium-137 as of September, 1966.

If the gauge shutter is open, radiation levels one foot from the open gauge would be about 1.5 R/hr.

The gauge was used at the Fairport Harbor plant which closed down in about January, 1977. Portions of the plant have since been sold, torn down and removed. Some of the material has been sold to a scrap dealer.

Region III has instructed the licensee to conduct radiation surveys at the former plant site and scrap dealer's property. This survey will be initiated on May 30, 1980 or June 2, 1980, depending on availability of Diamond Shamrock personnel who are knowledgeable at the facility.

A Region III inspector will be dispatched to the site to observe the licensee's survey and perform independent measurements. The Ohio Department of Health has been notified.

No press release is planned at this time; however, a release will be made describing the missing gauge if the radiation surveys fail to locate it.

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This information is current as of 2:00 CDT May 29, 1980.

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