

Date: July 21, 1981

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-81-81

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 on this date.

Facility: Technical Operations  
Burlington, Massachusetts (License No. 20-00277-03)

Subject: RADIOGRAPHY SOURCE REPORTED LOST IN TRANSIT

On July 21, 1981 the licensee reported that a Technical Operations Modem source changer shipped from a firm in Argentina was missing. The source changer was believed to have arrived at JFK airport in New York and subsequently shipped to Logan airport in Boston via TWA airlines on June 22, 1981. The source changer was reported lost to the licensee on July 8, 1981 but the waybill indicated that it contained no source. Further investigation by the licensee determined that a 1.25-curie iridium-192 radiography source was being returned to Technical Operations in the source changer. Search of the warehouses at both JFK and Logan airports was unsuccessful. The licensee is continuing to search for the missing device and will inform the regional office when the search is complete.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of New York have been notified. No press release is planned by the licensee or the NRC at this time. There has been no media interest. Region I received notification of this occurrence by telephone call from the licensee at approximately 10:00 a.m. on July 21, 1981.

This Preliminary Notification is for information only and no further action by IE is planned.

Contact: F. Costello 488-1353 J. Joyner 488-1251

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