

Date: May 21, 1993

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNI-9326

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:

Vishay

63 Lincoln Highway

Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355

Licensee Emergency Classification:

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

General License

Docket No. 99990001

Event No. NONE

Event Location Code: MAT

Subject: LOSS OF A PROMETHIUM-147 SEALED SOURCE BY VISHAY

On May 21, 1993 at 9:45 am, a representative of Vishay informed the Region I office that the company had lost a sealed source containing 75 microcuries of promethium-147 used to measure the thickness of film. The sealed source is about 3.5 centimeters (one and a half inches) in diameter by 0.3 centimeters (one eighth of an inch) thick, and is silver in color. It is stamped with the radiation symbol (i.e., a three-bladed fan), the activity, and the isotope. Company personnel discovered the loss about 11:00 am on May 19, 1993. It was determined that the source was lost sometime between 10:30 and 11:00 am on May 18, 1993, when Shipping Department personnel opened a box containing a gauge with a separate sealed source. The voucher stated that there were two items in the box and the gauge was in two pieces. The Shipping Department personnel assumed that they had found the two items and did not search through the packing material for any other items. The package and packing materials were placed in a dumpster which was emptied by the contractor at about 9:00 am on May 19, 1993. Contact with the contractor on May 21, 1993, revealed that the material had been brought to Lanchester Landfill and was buried under a significant amount of fill.

Corrective action by the company included additional training to the Shipping Department personnel with respect to unpacking procedures to ensure that all materials are taken out of the package before it is discarded.

NRC Region I will continue to monitor the situation. The sealed source is not deemed to be a radiation hazard to the public. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been notified.

CONTACT: S.Courtemanche
215-337-5075

F. Costello
215-337-5275

1/0
X-34

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNI-9326

DISTRIBUTION:

OWFN MNBB L-St. NL Mail: ADM:DMB
 Chairman Selin AEOD** PDR RES DOT:Trans only**
 Comm. Rogers IRM
 Comm. Curtiss OIG** NRC Ops Ctr** 2:30 pm
 Comm. Remick
 Comm. de Planque INPO** 2:10 pm
 OCAA NSAC** 2:08 pm
 OIP

Phillips
 OCA EDO ACRS**
 OGC NMSS
 OPA NRR** (Phone Verif: A. Byrdsong 964-1168 or 964-1166)

OE

OSP

Regional Offices _____

RI Resident Office _____

EWV

OIG

Licensee: _____

(Reactor Licensees)

** General list for sending PN's by FAX

Region I Form 83

(Rev. November 1992)