

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

Facility: G. D. Searle & Company
Research & Development Division
P. O. Box 5110
Chicago, Illinois 60680

License No. 12-00701-02

Licensee Emergency Classification:
____ Notification of Unusual Event
____ Alert
____ Site Area Emergency
____ General Emergency
XXX Not Applicable

30-04047

Subject: LOST NICKEL - 63 FOIL

The licensee reported the loss of a 10 millicurie nickel-63 foil contained in a detector cell. The detector cell is designed for use in a gas chromatograph. However, the foil had been stored in an office in the licensee's plant in Skokie, Illinois for 3 or 4 years. It appears that the cell may have been discarded as trash about 6 or 8 weeks ago when the office was cleaned in preparation for a new occupant. The foil was found to be missing when an inventory was initiated about 2 weeks ago. The search was terminated on March 22, 1982. The probability of a significant personnel exposure is low due to the low radiation energies involved. The licensee will submit a report according to the requirements in 10 CFR 20.402(b).

There has been no known media interest concerning this event, and none is anticipated. Neither the licensee nor Region III plans to issue a news release at this time.

The State of Illinois has been notified.

Region III received notification of this loss by telephone from the licensee at 2:30 p.m. (CST) March 22, 1982. This information is current as of 9:10 a.m. (CST) March 23, 1982.

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