

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-89-90 Date December 29, 1989 DCP

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 III staff on this date. 284

Facility: American Radiolabeled
Chemicals
St. Louis, Missouri

License No. 24-21362-01

Licensee Emergency
Classification:
☐ Unusual Event
☐ Alert
☐ Site Area Emergency
☐ General Emergency
☒ Not Applicable

30-20567

24-21362-01

Subject: SUSPENSION OF NRC-LICENSED ACTIVITIES

As a result of recent NRC inspection findings, the licensee agreed on December 29, 1989, to suspend all production related NRC-licensed work using tritium, carbon-14, and phosphorus-32 as a labeling agent for various chemicals. Region III (Chicago) will issue a Confirmatory Action Letter documenting the licensee's agreement.

A special NRC inspection December 27-28, 1989, found serious deficiencies in the licensee's program for monitoring personnel exposures and effluents from its facility. Although the accuracy of the licensee's data is questionable, a preliminary review by NRC inspectors indicated that carbon-14 effluent releases may have exceeded the NRC limit, but personnel exposures appear to be within the limit.

A previous inspection, December 21-22, determined that the licensee had incorrectly documented on shipping papers toxic compounds which were shipped to a customer in Switzerland (Reference: PNO-III-89-88). Four such instances were initially identified; the recent inspection found three more cases of misidentification.

Region III has provided information on its findings to the U.S. Customs Service and the Department of Transportation.

The licensee has agreed to stop work until it fully evaluates airborne concentrations of radioactivity in the workplace, radiation exposures to workers and the public, and effluent releases. The licensee also must establish systems to assure that its operations meet NRC radiation exposure and release limits. Region III authorization will be sought before work is resumed.

The State of Missouri will be notified.

Region III was informed of the inspection findings on December 29, 1989. This information is current as of 2 p.m., December 29, 1989.

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