

Date: April 8, 1994

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-9423

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:

New England Power Company  
Brayton Point Station  
Brayton Point Road  
Somerset, Massachusetts 02726

## Licensee Emergency Classification:

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

Docket No.: 030-04666

License No.: 20-07227-02

Event No.: 27049

Event Location Code: MAT

Subject: LOSS OF A 1.25 MICROCURIE STRONTIUM-90 SOURCE

On April 6, 1994, the licensee informed the NRC Headquarters Operations Officer who notified the Region I Office of the apparent loss of a 1.7 microcurie strontium-90 sealed source from a Texas Nuclear Model No. 885326 gauge calibrator. The licensee noted that the source was missing on March 17, 1994, when manufacturer personnel worked on the gauge to dispose of the sealed source. The licensee stated that they are unsure of the exact time of the loss or that the source was initially installed because inventories of sealed sources only included ensuring that the source housings and detectors were present. The gauge was ordered in 1979 and the licensee possessed five other similar gauges. The manufacturer determined that the other gauges included their strontium-90 sealed sources. These gauges have been disposed of by transfer to the manufacturer. The source is a silver foil covered by an aluminum window, approximately 9.4 millimeters (0.37 inches) in diameter by 6.4 millimeters (0.25 inches) thick. The sealed source is engraved with the symbols, "Sr-90, 1.7 uCi". The manufacturer has sent pictures of the gauge and the sealed source to the licensee. With the aid of a consultant, the licensee will be interviewing personnel to try and locate the sealed source. All other licensed material has been accounted for.

Region I called the manufacturer for additional information. The gauges were distributed in March 1981, and each contained a 1.7 microcurie strontium-90 sealed source. Strontium-90 is a beta particle emitter and the current activity is 1.25 microcuries. Prolonged contact with the source could be a radiation hazard.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been notified of the loss of the source by the NRC. The Region I Office of Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media interest. This information is current as of 1:30 p.m., April 8, 1994.

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\*\* General list for sending PNs by FAX

Region I Form 83  
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