

Date: April 13, 1994

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-9426

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:

Eljer Manufacturing
1301 Eljer Way
Ford City, PA 16226

Licensee Emergency Classification:

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

Docket No.: 99990001

License No.: General License

Event No.:

Event Location Code: MAT

Subject: NUCLEAR GAUGE BEING REMOVED WITH SOURCE SHUTTER OPEN

On April 12, 1994, a representative of Eljer Manufacturing, Ford City, Pennsylvania, an NRC General Licensee, informed the NRC Region I Office of the improper removal of a Kay Ray nuclear density gauge containing 500 millicuries of Cesium-137. The licensee indicated that the nuclear gauge was removed from its mounting sometime around 9:30 a.m. on April 11, 1994 with the shutter in the open position. This may have exposed at least four individuals to the radiation beam in the process of removing the gauge. The licensee reported that they discovered at 8:30 a.m. on April 12, 1994 that the shutter on the gauge had not been closed, and immediately closed the shutter. The licensee also contacted a health physics consultant to review the circumstances and assess any radiation exposures to personnel. The health physics consultant responded and performed a radiological exposure assessment of potentially exposed individuals.

Region I contacted the consulting health physicist. The consultant indicated that from his initial evaluation it did not appear any individual was exposed to radiation levels exceeding NRC requirements.

Region I will visit the facility and evaluate the circumstances that caused the incident and review the potential radiation exposures to personnel.

The Region I Office of Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media interest. This information is current as of 3:30 p.m., April 13, 1994.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was notified.

Contact: Steve Shaffer
(610) 337-5382

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PDR I&E
PNO-I-94-026 PDR

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