

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-9412

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:
Delaware State University
1200 N. DuPont Highway
Dover, Delaware 19901

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

Docket No.: 030-31282
License No.: 07-11871-05
Event No.: N/A
Event Location Code: MAT

Subject: THEFT OF TRITIUM LUMINATED EXIT SIGNS

On February 10, 1994, a contractor for Delaware State University informed the NRC Region I office that, as of February 10, 1994, fifty-four BetaLux exit signs containing approximately 20 Curies of tritium each were stolen from New Residence Hall, an on-campus student housing facility. The signs began disappearing in September 1993. The contractor was asked to replace the signs and, upon contacting the sign vendor, the contractor was informed in January 1994 of the requirement to report the theft of the signs to the NRC. The signs are 12 3/4 inches by 8 1/4 inches by 1 inch with red lettering, "EXIT." Region I staff contacted a representative of the University to determine any corrective actions taken to date. Region I will follow up on the licensee's actions and attempts to recover the signs.

The signs, while intact, would not pose a radiation hazard. If the ampules in the signs are broken, a significant contamination problem and a potential internal radiation exposure hazard would exist.

The State of Delaware was notified by the NRC. The Region I Office of Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media interest. This information is current as of 2:00 p.m., February 10, 1994.

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PNO-I-94-012 PDR

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