

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-9410

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:
Uretek
30 Lenox Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06513

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

Docket No.: 99990001
License No.: General
Event No.: N/A
Event Location Code: MAT

Subject: LOSS OF A PROMETHIUM-147 SEALED SOURCE

On February 8, 1994, the licensee informed the Region I Office of the loss of the sealed source from a promethium-147 beta thickness gauge. The gauge was manufactured by UPA Technologies, Incorporated, and had an initial activity of 70 to 75 microcuries in January 1992. The sealed source is about 12 millimeters (one-half inch) in diameter, about 3 millimeters (one-eighth inch) in length, is greyish in color, and is engraved with the model number (T), serial number (4591), the radiation symbol (tri-bladed fan), and the initial activity (70 - 75 microcuries). The current activity is approximately 43 microcuries and radiation exposure levels would be about 50 millirem per hour on contact and 1 millirem per hour at 23 centimeters (nine inches). The licensee stated that the sealed source was confirmed as being in their possession on February 4, 1994, about 5 p.m. and the loss was discovered at 9 a.m. on February 8, 1994. Interviews by the licensee of the gauge users and the janitorial staff determined that the sealed source may have become dislodged from the gauge on February 4th and was swept off of the floor by the janitorial staff on February 5th and put in the trash. The licensee stated that the trash was picked up by a waste disposal firm on February 7th and was incinerated. Due to the small amount of radioactive material involved, no material would be detected at the incinerator. No radiation dose consequences to the workers at the incinerator or the public is expected.

The licensee has notified the State of Connecticut and the manufacturer of the gauge of the loss.

The State of Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection 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 noon, February 8, 1994.

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