

March 15, 1993

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-93-011

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 II staff on this date.

Facility

United Metal Recyclers
(Non-Licensee in an Agreement State)
Kernerville, North Carolina

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL IN SCRAP METAL

On March 15, 1993, The State of North Carolina, Division of Radiation Protection notified the NRC's Region II Office that a truck carrying scrap metal had set off the radiation monitors when it arrived at United Metal Recyclers in Kernerville, North Carolina. The shipment originated from Coiner Scrap Iron and Metal, Inc. in Charlottesville, Virginia. United Metal Recyclers notified the State of North Carolina, Division of Radiation Protection. A radiation survey performed by a member of the Kernerville, NC Hazardous Material Team indicated the highest radiation levels were 0.5 milliroentgens per hour at the surface of a single box of scrap metal. The radioactive material appears to be a grinding wheel. The State of North Carolina has directed that the shipment be returned to Coiner Scrap Iron and Metal under Department of Transportation Exemption (DOT-E-10656). The State of North Carolina has informed the Commonwealth of Virginia Bureau of Radiological Health. The Commonwealth of Virginia has indicated that they will have Coiner Scrap Metal isolate the box of scrap when it arrives until the radionuclide is identified and provisions are made to properly dispose of the radioactive material.

The State of North Carolina has informed the Department of Transportation. Region II has offered assistance to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Region II will continue to monitor the situation and is prepared to assist the Commonwealth if requested.

This information is current as of 3:00 p.m. on March 15, 1993.

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