

02/10/94

-1- Date: June 13, 1994

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-94-45

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 III staff on this date.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
University of Wisconsin	General Emergency
Madison, Wisconsin	Site Area Emergency
	Alert
License No. 48-09843-18	Unusual Event
	X Not Applicable

Subject: DISPOSAL OF VIAL CONTAINING PHOSPHORUS-32 IN TRASH

On June 10, 1994, the licensee reported that several bags containing radioactive waste were removed from a storage area in a laboratory at University Hospital. The waste was in red biohazard bags inside a plexiglass box which was marked as containing radioactive material. The bags, however, were not marked as containing radioactive material.

The laboratory personnel had recently placed vials containing a maximum of 4 millicuries of phosphorus-32 in the waste bags. The licensee believes that the bags were likely removed by custodial personnel between June 1 and June 8, 1994.

Since the waste was contained in biohazard bags, it likely went to the Madison Energy Recovery, Inc., incinerator. Licensee representatives went to the incinerator facility on June 10. All University Hospital waste had already been incinerated with exception of two carts. The bags in the carts were surveyed and found to contain no radioactive material.

The licensee is considering modifying its radioactive waste handling procedures, including keeping waste containers and storage areas locked and procuring yellow bags to hold radioactive waste.

The circumstances surrounding the loss of the material and the licensee's corrective actions will be reviewed during a subsequent Region III (Chicago) inspection.

The State of Wisconsin will be informed. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

The licensee reported this loss of material to Region III at 3:05 p.m. on June 10, 1994. This information is current as of 11 a.m. on June 13, 1994.

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