

September 21, 1983

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-83-22A

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 NRC staff on this date.

FACILITY: E.A.D. Metallurgical, Inc.  
Tonawanda, New York  
(New York Agreement State  
Licensee)

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

SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION OF AMERICIUM-241 CONTAMINATED EQUIPMENT

This is to provide an update on the americium-241 contaminated equipment that was shipped from E.A.D. Metallurgical (a State-licensed smoke-detector manufacturer in New York) through Laredo, Texas, with final destination to have been Monterrey, Mexico. The contaminated material is currently still impounded by the Texas Bureau of Radiation Control in an isolated corner of a warehouse in Laredo, Texas.

Since the issuance of the order impounding the shipment on July 1, 1983, several meetings have been conducted with representatives from the Department of Transportation, the Texas Bureau of Radiation Control, E.A.D. Metallurgical, and the NRC Office of State Programs.

To date, the issue remains of how to repackage and transfer the equipment to appropriate facilities in Mexico.

The State and Federal agencies involved are continuing their investigations of the incident and attempting to resolve the issue with E.A.D. officials. There has been media interest concerning the incident.

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Chmn Palladino	EDO	NR	IE	NMSS	DOT: Trans Only
Comm. Gilinsky	PA		OIA	RES	DMB (Original)
Comm. Roberts	MPA		AEOD		INPO
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SECY

ACRS

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PDR Regions: \_\_\_\_\_

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(Reactor Licensees)

SGRS *RA*  
RHeyer:mj  
9/2/83

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RA-RIV *RA*  
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*DMB*  
*IE 34/10*

*9/21/83 dated for dispatch 9:00am*