

August 16, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-96-059

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 Region II staff in Atlanta, Georgia on this date.

Facility

(Agreement State General Licensee)
Mohawk Industries
Cartersville Georgia Plant
Cartersville Georgia

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: MISSING STRONTIUM-90 GAUGE

The State of Georgia Radioactive Materials Program notified Region II on Thursday, August 15, 1996, that an Agreement State general licensee had reported a missing fixed gauging device. The device contained 40 millicuries of strontium-90 when it was distributed in 1970, and has been in storage at the facility for several months. The device was discovered to be missing on Thursday, and efforts are ongoing to locate the missing device.

Mohawk Industries notified Georgia that two loads of scrap steel were transferred to a local recycling facility (Self Recycling, Inc.) in Cartersville, Georgia during the month of February, 1996, and one load was transferred in July of 1996. The recycling company in turn, transferred some of the steel to a Florida Steel facility located in Tennessee, and some of the steel was sent to the Atlantic Steel facility located in Cartersville. Mohawk believes that the gauge, if transferred off site, was most likely transferred to Atlantic Steel.

The recycling company notified Atlantic Steel and Florida Steel of the missing gauge. Atlantic Steel has hired a contractor to survey the facility to attempt to locate the gauge. The Atlantic Steel facility in Cartersville monitors each batch of steel for gamma and beta radiation, and the facility reported to Georgia that there have been no indications of contamination. The State of Tennessee, Division of Radiological Health, and the Environmental Protection Agency (Atlanta) have been notified.

This information is current as of 8:00 a.m., EDT, Friday, August 16, 1996.

Contact: R. L. Woodruff
(404) 331-5545

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PDR I&E
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