

November 20, 1992

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE --- PNO-IV-92-040

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 IV staff on this date.

FACILITY:  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, Texas  
Docket No: 070-01936

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

SUBJECT: LOST FISSION CHAMBER DETECTOR CONTAINING SNM

On November 19, 1992, Texas A&M University reported that a fission chamber detector containing approximately 1.7 grams of uranium-235 had been lost.

The fission chamber detector, which is approximately 4 inch in diameter and 12 inches long, was last accounted for on April 4, 1991, and was determined to be missing during a November 11, 1991, inventory. Texas A&M plans to continue its search for the missing chamber.

There is presently no media interest, neither the licensee nor the NRC plans to issue a press release.

The state of Texas has been informed.

The Region IV Office, Arlington, Texas, received notification from the NRC Operations Center at 8:50 a.m. CST, November 19, 1992. This information is current as of 11:00 a.m. CST.

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| RIV: D BRSS | Dka          | RA 77     |  |  |
| LJCallan    | JMMontgomery | JLMilhoan |  |  |
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