

June 20, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-97-036

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 I staff in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania on this date.

Facility

E.I. Dupont Denemours And Company,
Incorporated
E.I. Dupont Denemours And Co, Inc
Chamber Works
Deepwater, New Jersey 08023
Dockets: 99990001 License No: General

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: MISSING BYPRODUCT MATERIAL IN A GAS CHROMATOGRAPH

On June 19, 1997 at 4:00 pm, the licensee contacted the NRC Regional Office staff to inform the NRC of the apparent loss of byproduct material. The licensee stated that, during a regularly scheduled physical inventory of all licensed material on-site, health physics staff determined that a Hewlett Packard gas chromatograph was not in the listed location. The licensee has interviewed personnel, examined records, and searched their facility for the past three weeks and have not recovered the gas chromatograph. The licensee stated that they would contact the NRC Headquarters Operation Officer regarding the apparent loss.

The Hewlett Packard Model 5880 gas chromatograph contains an Electron Capture Detector (ECD) which is approximately 4 inches (10 centimeters [cm]) long and 1.5 inches (3.8 cm) in diameter at its widest point. The ECD is made of stainless steel and is unpainted. The label attached to the ECD has the following statement: "CAUTION- RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL 15 millicuries of Nickel-63, 19312 Electron Capture Detector, Serial No. S9968 (and the date of manufacture)." The label also contains a statement about the general license provisions. If the ECD is opened, New England Nuclear, the manufacturer of the sealed source, provides the following radiological information with the ECD opened: Contact dose rate measured with thermoluminescent dosimeters as 354 millirem/hour (mR/hr); 4.5 inches (11 cm) as 3 mR/hr. Contact dose rate measured with a survey instrument at 2 inches (5 cm) as 53 mR/hr; 4 inches (10 cm) as 5 mR/hr.

NRC Region I staff will perform an inspection in the near future to review this event. The State of New Jersey has been notified of the event. The Region I Public Affairs staff is prepared to respond to media interest.

This information is current as of 9:00 am, June 20, 1997.

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