

June 25, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-H-97-002

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 NMSS staff on this date.

Facility

Source Production and Equipment
Company, Inc. (SPEC)
113 Teal Street
St. Rose, LA 70087-9691
License No: Not Applicable

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: DEFICIENCIES IN SOURCE PRODUCTION AND EQUIPMENT CORPORATION'S
TESTING PROGRAM FOR TRANSPORTATION PACKAGES

On June 24, 1997, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a Confirmatory Action Letter to SPEC Corporation, of St. Rose, Louisiana (CAL No. 97-7-006). SPEC Corporation designs and manufactures devices used for gamma radiography. These devices are certified by the NRC under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 71 as Type B packages for the transport of radiographic sources. SPEC holds three Certificates of Compliance for transportation package designs. The CAL was issued as a result of an NRC inspection of SPEC's transportation package testing program. The inspection identified problems regarding the testing program that called into question the adequacy of tests that SPEC performed in support of their transportation package designs. SPEC has suspended fabrication of all NRC-certified transportation packagings.

The CAL specifies that SPEC must conduct retesting of Type B transportation packages. A test plan was prepared by SPEC and submitted to the NRC on June 23, 1997. The retesting program will be performed on or about June 26, 1997 and will be observed by NRC representatives.

The Office of Public Affairs is preparing a press release regarding this issue. The State of Louisiana has been notified of this action by telephone and fax.

This PN is current as of 10:30 am, June 25, 1997.

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