

**International
Paper Co.**

International Paper Co.
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Lock Haven, PA 17745

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Facsimile

To: NRC DNMS Branch
ATTN: Eric Reber
@Fax: 610-337-5324
From: Larry T. Laird
Date: Wednesday March 31, 1999
Re: Report of Missing Source Material
Pages: 2, including this cover sheet.

Here is our written report of the verbal notification we made to you on 3/2/99. If you need anything more, please call me at 570-748-1321. Thank you.

This is to explain the circumstances concerning the misplaced NDC Sensor Model 104 containing Am241 @ an activity of 80 mCi serial number 7408LX determined to be missing on March 2 1999 at International Paper in Lock haven, PA.

The sensor was removed from #10 Paper Machine and returned to the manufacturer for repair in late 1996. When it was returned in March of 1997, the manufacturer shipped the device in two separate boxes. One box (containing the extension pole used for mounting the device) was placed in the paper mill technical office and was assumed to contain the source. The source was actually in the second box which was stored in another room in a separate area of the mill about 500 feet away.

During the physical inventories through January of 1999, The Radiation Safety Officer inventoried the box in the paper mill technical office. During these inventories, the paper mill technical people told the RSO that the source was in the box in their office. The RSO did not actually open the box to confirm that the device was inside. Paper mill personnel opened the box on March 1, and discovered the device was not inside. They notified the RSO at that time.

At that point we began an intensive search. On March 2, 1999, we continued the search and we were successful in contacting a former employee who was the last person in possession of the device. The former employee did not remember receiving the device, and she did not give the RSO notification of receipt as required. We then contacted the manufacturer to verify if the device was actually returned to us. They confirmed a shipment of two (2) boxes. At this time, it was evident that the device was misplaced, so we notified the NRC.

We continued to search the mill. We passed out pictures to employees and surveyed the mill with a radiation survey meter. The device was discovered by an employee during the early morning hours of March 6, 1999. It was found in the area adjacent to the #13 paper machine where the former employee occasionally worked. The shutter was found in the closed position. Readings were taken around the device and indicated less than 1 mrem/hr at the surface.

The device will be returned to service on #10 paper machine in the near future, or it will be returned to the manufacturer to be decommissioned. Until either of the above actions happen, the device will remain secured by the RSO in a locked metal cabinet.

An audit of the Radiation Safety program was performed to identify any gaps and corrective actions were taken. Three issues were identified for correction. The first is that physical inventories must include direct visual observation of the devices and a check with a survey meter to insure that the source is intact. The second is that procedures for physical inventories will be rewritten to describe how the inventories are to be conducted. The third is that the RSO is the only person who can ship or receive source material.

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