

October 23, 2003

THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 10/26/03.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-045

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

University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas
License No.: L00485-000
Texas Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

☐ Notification of Unusual Event
☐ Alert
☐ Site Area Emergency
☐ General Emergency
☒ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: LOST AMERICIUM-241 SOURCE

DESCRIPTION:

On October 22, 2003, the Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control (the Bureau) notified NRC's Operations Center of the reported loss of a 5.0 millicurie americium-241 sealed source.

On October 22, 2003, the University of Texas at Austin, a Texas licensee, informed the Bureau that they had discovered a 5 millicurie americium-241 sealed source was missing while performing an inventory of sources. The licensee believes that the source was procured in the 1960's and according to records, was placed in storage on November 27, 1984. Records also indicate that a leak test was performed on the source on April 19, 1988. The licensee searched the facility for the source, but has not located it. The licensee believes the source was manufactured by the Monsanto Company (Serial No. M-376). The model number is not known. The source is reported to be a sealed 1-inch pipe. The licensee and the Bureau are continuing to investigate this event.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on October 22, 2003. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, OSTP and the Region's PAO and SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 1:45 p.m. (CDT) on October 23, 2003.

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