

November 5, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-96-077

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 II staff in Atlanta, Georgia on this date.

Facility

Scientific Inspection Technology
(An Agreement State Licensee)
Chattanooga, Tennessee
License No: R-33092-C01

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: LOST RADIOGRAPHIC DEVICE

Tennessee, an Agreement State, reported that Scientific Inspection Technology, Inc. (SITI) had an industrial radiography device disappear during use at a temporary job site.

The Licensee was performing industrial radiography at the Kingston Steam Plant, a Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) facility located near Kingston, TN during the night of November 4, 1996. The portable device was an Industrial Nuclear, Model IR-100 and contained about 67 curies of iridium-192. The radiographers left the device unattended and with the source locked in a shielded position for approximately 5 minutes. When the radiographers returned, the device was missing. The Licensee notified the State and TVA.

TVA secured the facility and assisted the Licensee in searching for the device. The State responded to the event, and subsequently reported to the NRC that the device had been found. Reportedly, the device was determined to be undamaged and locked; however, additional tests are being conducted by the Licensee.

The State is continuing their investigation into the circumstances and details leading to the incident. Local news media was reportedly in the facility parking lot, and TVA had a Public Relations person at the site.

This information is current as of 10:30 EST, Tuesday, November 5, 1996.

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