

December 18, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-96-092

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

Cis-US, Inc.
Cis-US, Inc.
10 De Angelo Drive
Bedford, Massachusetts
Dockets: 03022172 License No: 20-20973-01

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: ACCIDENT INVOLVING PACKAGES CONTAINING IODINE-131

At 12:15 p.m., on December 18, 1996, CIS-US notified Region I that an accident had occurred the evening of December 17, 1996, on Route 128 near Bedford, Massachusetts, involving packages of iodine-131. Region I immediately contacted a CIS-US and a Federal Express representative. The CIS-US representative stated that they had been notified of the accident around 10 a.m. today. The Federal Express representative stated that the accident had occurred at the intersection of Routes 4, 225, and 128 around 9 p.m. eastern time on December 17. Two packages were involved which contained four cans with approximately 50 millicuries, 50 millicuries, 100 millicuries, and 2.5 millicuries of iodine-131 respectively. The Federal Express representative stated that the rear doors of the transport van apparently were not closed tightly and came open during transport. According to the licensee's representative, the package containing approximately 2.5 millicuries of iodine-131 was retrieved by a motorist and taken to their home in New Hampshire. Once notified, the CIS-US representative immediately drove to the site of the accident and surveyed packaging material found at the site and arranged to meet the motorist to retrieve the package. The motorist returned the package to CIS-US on December 18. Federal Express delivered a salvage drum containing the other packages to the CIS-US facility the morning of December 18. The licensee verified that the total activity shipped was accounted for and immediately swiped the drum and found no contamination. The licensee's representative stated that the entire area of the cans and pigs were also swiped and no contamination was found. All septums and seals were also found to be intact. The licensee's representative stated that they plan to survey the motorist's car and home today.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of New Hampshire have been contacted and are assisting in the evaluation of the event. The Region I Public Affairs Office is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

This information is current as of 3:00 p.m. on December 18, 1996.

Contacts: Penny Lanzisera John D. Kinneman (610) 337-5169 (610) 337-5252

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