

January 22, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-97-006

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

Nimco Shredding Co.
Nimco Shredding Co.
252 Doremus Avenue
Newark, New Jersey
Dockets: 99990001 License No: General

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: RADIOACTIVE SOURCE FOUND IN SCRAP METAL SHIPMENT

On January 21, 1997, the NRC Region I office was notified by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that on January 13, 1997, DEP was notified by the Michigan Radiological Protection Section that a scrap metal shipment from NIMCO Shredding Company set off radiation monitors at Huron Valley Steel in Belleville, Michigan. The shipment was returned to the NIMCO facility in Newark, New Jersey, on January 14 where NIMCO personnel located a small metallic object with radiation survey meters measuring approximately 1.8 milliroentgens per hour on contact. According to NIMCO, the object is approximately 3.2 millimeters (mm) in diameter and 4.8 mm long. No identification markings were noted on the object.

Radiation physicists from DEP visited the NIMCO facility on January 17 to take gamma spectroscopy and exposure measurements of the object. DEP identified the radionuclide as Cesium 137 with an activity of approximately 30 to 50 microcuries. NIMCO currently has the source secured in their offices inside a metal container wrapped in lead sheets.

Due to the unspecified nature of the radioactive object, Region I notified EPA Region II's Radiation Program office on January 22, 1997, of the incident in accordance with the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP). Under the FRERP, the EPA is the lead federal agency for this incident.

The State of New Jersey and EPA Region II have been notified. The Region I Public Affairs Office is prepared to address press inquiries.

This notification is current as of 10:00 a.m. on January 22, 1997.

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