

October 18, 1996

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-96-056A

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 IV staff in Arlington, Texas on this date.

Facility

Department Of The Army
White Sands Missile Range
New Mexico 88002-5048
Dockets: 03005480 License No: 30-02405-05

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: DAMAGED SHIPPING PACKAGE (UPDATE)

Roadway Express, a freight hauler, notified the National Response Center that they had been informed by the licensee regarding damage to a shipping container that had been delivered on October 16, 1996. The damage was noted by the licensee after the hauler had departed the licensee's site.

The freight hauler's report to the National Response Center erroneously stated that Co-60 was released into the environment. A licensee representative, contacted by the NRC Region IV Office on October 16, 1996, stated that the package consisted of a radiographic exposure device (Amersham Model 680B containing a 99-curie cobalt-60 source) in a wooden overpack. The overpack appeared to have been penetrated by a forklift truck prong during shipment. A Roadway Express representative returned to the site on October 17, and the overpack was removed in his presence to determine if there was damage to the exposure device. The licensee reported that no damage to the device was observed as a result of this inspection.

NMSS and the State of New Mexico have been informed. This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

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