

February 11, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-97-007A

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 III staff (Lisle, Illinois) on this date.

Facility	Licensee Emergency Classification
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, ROCK ISLAND IL	Notification of Unusual Event
Department Of The Army	Alert
Rock Island, Illinois	Site Area Emergency
License No: 120072206/13	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: MISSING OR LOST DEVICES AT ARMY FACILITIES (UPDATE)

As a result of ongoing routine inspection activities by Region III (Chicago) beginning January 27, 1997, the licensee has made a series of event notifications to the NRC Operations Center. Four event notifications were included in PNO-III-97-07. This updated preliminary notification includes missing or lost devices containing radioactive material as reported to the NRC Operations Center on February 7, 1997. The notifications were not made in the time specified by NRC regulations.

NRC-licensed activities conducted under these licenses by any military installation are coordinated and supervised by the licensee's facility in Rock Island, Illinois.

Currently, the licensee is searching its inventory control database in an effort to locate the devices reported lost or missing. The licensee has contacted the commanders of all the bases where devices were determined to be missing or lost to ensure that these individuals are aware of the event that occurred under their command. The Communications and Electronics Command (CEACOM) will be contacted regarding the missing or lost devices involving the National Guard.

Missing or lost devices containing licensed material are as follows:

- Chemical Agent Alarms, each containing a sealed source of americium-241 (9.25 megabecquerels or 250 microcuries)
- Thirty two devices at Fort Hood, TX, between November 14, 1995, and December 5, 1996
- One device at Fort Knox, KY, September 27, 1996
- Six devices at Fort Meade, MD, April 25, 1996
- Four devices at Fort Sill, OK, between February 5, 1996, through October 31, 1996
- Four devices at Fort Dix, NJ, June 21, 1995
- Three devices at Fort Bragg, NC, between June 6, 1996, and November 27, 1996
- Eleven devices at the US National Guard Federal Property Office in AR, between October 7 and 15, 1996

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- Two devices at Fort Benning, GA, October 2, 1996
- Chemical Agent Alarms, each containing a sealed source of nickel-63 (370 megabecquerels or 10 millicuries)
- Twenty six devices at Fort Hood, TX, between November 14, 1995, and June 26, 1996

The Region III inspection of the licensee's activities is continuing. The failure to report the events in a timely basis will be reviewed for appropriate enforcement action. Region III has suspended all current licensing actions for the licensee.

Region III has contacted NMSS; Regions I, II, and IV; and the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety. The other affected states will be notified. These events were reported to the NRC Operations Center on February 6, 1997. The information in this preliminary Notification is current as of 9 a.m. on February 11, 1997.

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