

June 4, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-97-031

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

Steel Of West Virginia  
Huntington, West Virginia  
License No: N/A

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: TRUCK CONTAINING SCRAP ACTIVATED RADIATION MONITOR

On June 4, 1997, Steel of West Virginia (SWV), a scrap smelter in Huntington, West Virginia, reported an alarm of the facility's radiation monitor after it was activated by a returning truckload of scrap at Sherrington, Inc., in Oak Hill, Ohio. SWV observed a Ronan/Kay-Ray density gauge on top of the scrap. Sherrington, Inc. confirmed that the shutter was closed. They also were able to determine that the gauge was a Kay-Ray Model 7050 containing 500 millicuries of Cesium-137. The gauge has been secured from further processing by Sherrington, Inc. pending disposal. Sherrington, Inc. believes the gauge came from one of three nearby coal or gravel plants. Sherrington is working with Ronan/Kay-Ray to determine the owner of the gauge. The gauge was originally sold to Soil Enrichment Corporation, Chicago, Illinois in June 1973 as a General Licensed device. Ronan provided the electronics for the gauge but was not the contractor for installation, servicing, or removal of the gauge.

Region III, USEPA, and the State of West Virginia have been notified.

Contact: John Potter  
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ID# R-5-1 generating  
expenditures

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