

May 23, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-03-009

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 (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

Facility

Twitchell Corporation
(An Agreement State licensee)
Dothan, AL
Dockets/License:

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: MISSING NDC THICKNESS GAUGE

On May 22, 2003, officials of the State of Alabama advised the Headquarters Operations Officer that during a routine inspection of the licensee's facility an NDC gauge could not be accounted for and was presumed to be missing.

The missing gauge is an NDC, gamma backscatter thickness gauge, Model 103, Serial Number 2112, containing, one 5.55 gigabecquerels (150 millicurie) americium 241 source.

The gauge was originally procured by Ludlow Coated Products, Inc., Dothan, AL, and in the year 2000, along with two other generally licensed gauges, the NDC gauge was thought to have been transferred to another Ludlow, Inc. plant, located in Mississippi. Subsequently, the Twitchell Corp. acquired the Ludlow, Inc. facilities.

During a recent inspection of the Dothan, AL facility, the licensee was able to produce only the documentation for the two other sources, indicating that they had been previously transferred; however, the NDC gauge is unaccounted for, and there is no paperwork or other relevant information available to explain the whereabouts of the missing gauge.

The licensee and State inspectors are continuing in their investigation to determine the disposition of the missing gauge.

The Region was notified of this event by the Headquarters Operations Officer at 3:45 PM EDST on May 22, 2003.

This information is current as of 10:15 AM, EDST, May 23, 2003.

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