

DCS No.: 99990001031231

Date: January 12, 2004

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-04-01

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 the Region I staff on this date.

Facility

Onyx Greentree Landfill
635 Toby Road
Kersey, PA 15846

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Docket No.: 99990001

License No.: not applicable

SUBJECT: RADIOACTIVE SOURCE FOUND AT LANDFILL IN KERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA

On January 12, 2004, the NRC learned that a radioactive source was identified at the Onyx Greentree Landfill in Kersey, Pennsylvania, on December 31, 2003. The truck, owned by the company that operates the landfill, was a consolidated shipment of municipal waste from the company's transfer station in Totowa, New Jersey. Because personnel were not available immediately, the truck was held onsite until an evaluation could be done. On January 7, company representatives retrieved the source. It is a metal container, approximately 2 inches by 4 inches by 8 inches, with electrical connections at one end. A small cylinder at the center of the other end measured 28 millirem per hour at about 8 inches from the cylinder. Assisted by an instrumentation consultant, the company evaluated the source with a portable multi-channel analyzer, and believe it to contain americium-241 (Am-241). There were no markings or labels on the outside of the source, except a notation "10.7 lbs". No NRC licensee responsible for the source has been identified. The NRC has notified the Environmental Protection Agency Region III Office about this source.

The company contacted the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) for assistance. PADEP representatives, and another consultant, plan to visit the landfill on January 13 to further examine the source.

This information is current as of 1:30 p.m., January 12, 2004.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State of New Jersey have been notified of this event. The Region I Office of Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquiries

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