

December 3, 2010

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-2010-006

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 IV, Arlington, Texas, staff on this date.

Facility

Pacific Steel and Recycling
Bozeman, Montana
Docket No.: NA
License No.: NA

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: LOSS OF CONTROL OF LICENSED MATERIAL

DESCRIPTION:

On December 2, 2010, personnel from Pacific Steel and Recycling, Bozeman, Montana (Pacific Steel), contacted the NRC Region IV office and reported the discovery of a fixed gauge containing radioactive material in a pile of scrap metal. Pacific Steel provided the model and serial numbers but was unable to discern any other identifying information from the fixed gauge. The fixed gauge was identified during a routine pre-shipment survey of scrap metal with a Ludlum Model 192 survey meter. The survey revealed a surface exposure rate of 3 – 4 mR/hr. The shutter on the fixed gauge was in the closed position and secured with a padlock. The gauge was placed in a container and secured in a location away from Pacific Steel personnel and members of the public. It is not known when the gauge was received at Pacific Steel.

Region IV staff contacted the device manufacturer and determined that the device had been transferred under a general license to Cyprus Industrial Minerals in Ennis, Montana, in June 1984. The device contained a 50 millicurie sealed source of cesium-137 as of the assay date of January 11, 1984.

On December 3, a Region IV inspector was dispatched to Bozeman, Montana, to initiate a reactive special inspection.

This information has been provided to the State of Montana and the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8. This information is current as of 10 a.m. CST, December 3, 2010.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML103370513

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