

August 19, 2004

This Event is not for public disclosure per Agreement State request until 8/23/04

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-04-012

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 III staff on this date.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Premcor Refining Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event
Lima, OH	<input type="checkbox"/> Alert
License No.: 31201-02-0001	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
(Agreement State licensee)	<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

SUBJECT: RADIATION EXPOSURE TO CONTRACT WORKERS

DESCRIPTION:

On August 18, 2004, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) notified the Region III Agreement States Officer of a potential accidental radiation exposure to approximately 21 contract workers. At this time it is unknown if the licensee trained these workers and designated them as radiation workers. The licensee's radiation safety officer estimated that four of the 21 workers may have received a wholebody dose slightly greater than 100 millirem and one worker may have received a dose of approximately 400 millirem.

The workers were performing maintenance activities on a large vessel that was equipped with two TN Technology gauges each containing 100 millicuries of cesium-137. The gauges are used to detect and measure the level of product inside the vessel. Prior to the work, the licensee closed the shutter to one of the gauges but failed to close the shutter to the other gauge.

On August 19, 2004, ODH inspectors responded to the licensee facility to perform radiation surveys and to evaluate the licensee's dose estimates from the event.

The NRC's Office of State and Tribal Programs and Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards have been notified. The NRC's Region III (Chicago) Office is monitoring the ODH investigation. The information in this Preliminary Notification was reviewed with the ODH. This information is current as of 11:45 a.m. CDT on August 19, 2004.

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