

August 23, 2004

*This Event is not for public disclosure per Agreement State request until 8/28/04*

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

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 (UPDATE)

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. 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's facility to perform radiation surveys and to evaluate the licensee's dose estimates from the event.

The ODH inspectors determined that the workers had not received radiation training and; therefore, were considered members of the public with an annual dose limit of 100 millirem. The inspectors determined that the radiation doses to the workers were less than initially reported. One of the 21 workers received a maximum dose of 35 millirem. The remaining 20 received estimated radiation doses ranging from 0 to 31 millirem.

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 continuing to monitor the ODH investigation. The information in this Preliminary Notification was reviewed with the ODH. This information is current as of 3 p.m. CDT on August 23, 2004.

CONTACTS:	James Lynch	Kenneth O'Brien
	(630) 829-9661	(630) 829-9821