

February 27, 2007

THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 03/06/07.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-07-001

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 staff on this date.

Facility

IPS
Oklahoma City, OK
Oklahoma Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: RADIATION DOSE IN EXCESS OF REGULATORY LIMITS

DESCRIPTION: On February 23, 2007, the State of Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (the State) notified the NRC Operations Center about a potential radiation overexposure of an individual employed at a well logging facility (EN 43183).

On February 22, 2007, a licensee mechanic who was not a radiation worker discovered an object in the licensee's parking lot that he placed in his coat pocket. The object was an unshielded sealed source of Cs-137 (approximately one curie) which had been inadvertently dropped during loading into a shielded pig on a well logging truck.

It is estimated that the mechanic wore the coat about 5 ½ hours before the source was identified as missing and was recovered the next day. Based on analyses by the State and the NRC, the worker may have received a significant but not life threatening radiation dose. The mechanic has been medically examined several times since the incident and has exhibited no symptoms as of February 26, 2007. White blood cell counts are normal. A physician at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center has examined the mechanic and expects radiation burns on his abdomen and his fingertips based on the estimated dose. A blood sample is being shipped today to RPA in London, England, for cytogenetic analysis. Dose results from this study should be reported next week. Medical monitoring is continuing.

The State is continuing its investigation to determine if other individuals may have received exposure from the source, including individuals that are not employed by the licensee. A fellow worker accompanied the mechanic to lunch and would have received some exposure while sitting with the mechanic in a motor vehicle and across from him at a restaurant. This worker is also expected to have received a dose in excess of the 100-millirem limit to a member of the public.

State inspectors were dispatched to the site on February 23 after notification of the event. NRC has offered assistance to the State and has compared dose estimates with them. The State is continuing its onsite review including interviews of workers. The State is also receiving support from NRC's Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs (FSME). The State continues to frequently inform the NRC regional office of its findings.

NRC's Operations Center received notification of this occurrence from the State on February 23, 2007, at 2043 ET. Region IV has informed OEDO, FSME, the regional SLO, and the regional PAO. Region IV has been monitoring the State's activities related to the event. This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 1:00 p.m.(CT) on February 27, 2007. There has been no known media interest.

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