

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-I-00-016

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:	Licensee Emergency
AEA Technology	Classification:
40 North Avenue	_____ Notification of Unusual
Burlington, MA 01803	Event
	_____ Alert
	_____ Site Area Emergency
	_____ General Emergency
	_____ X Not Applicable

Docket No.: N/A
License No.: 12-8361 (Commonwealth of Massachusetts)
Event No.: N/A
Event Location Code:

SUBJECT: PERSONNEL EXPOSURE EVENT AT AEA TECHNOLOGY

On Monday, June 19, 2000, the licensee reported to the Massachusetts Radiation Control Program an event which had the potential to cause an exposure in excess of 5 rem TEDE. On that day, the licensee received a Type B Container (GE Model 100) containing 1650 curies of encapsulated cobalt-60. A supervisor was preparing to move the package into the restricted area and instructed an employee to get the necessary wrench while he obtained the cart necessary to move the container into the restricted area. The employee was not authorized to open packages and was only asked to get the wrench. The supervisor was delayed by other activities and did not return to the loading dock immediately. The employee removed the overpack and unbolted the primary shield plug with some assistance from another employee who was also not authorized to open packages. As the first employee was removing the primary shield plug, a radiation safety technician came to the loading dock and ordered them to stop and replace the plug. The licensee has sent personnel monitoring devices for emergency reading and is reconstructing the event in order to estimate the doses. The Massachusetts Radiation Control Program began a special inspection and is closely monitoring the licensee's investigation.

The NRC was notified of the event on June 19, 2000, by a representative of the Massachusetts Radiation Control Program. This information is current as of June 21, 2000.

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