

April 3, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-00-017

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 Region II staff (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

Facility	Licensee Emergency Classification
An Agreement State Licensee	Notification of Unusual Event
Space Science Services	Alert
Dothan, Alabama	Site Area Emergency
License No: AL 217	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: FAILURE OF RADIOGRAPHY SOURCE TO FULLY RETRACT

On March 31, 2000, at approximately 6:00 p.m., the licensee reported that they were unable to fully retract a 49-curie iridium-192 source into the shielded position of their radiography exposure device, an Industrial Nuclear IR-100. The work was being conducted at the Navy Fuel Depot in Jacksonville, Florida, under reciprocity with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The radiographers isolated the area and controlled access while taking corrective actions. The radiographers disassembled the crank that drives the source in and out of the exposure device. They found that a piece of the crank internals had malfunctioned and jammed the crank gears. The radiographers contacted the Radiation Safety Officer by telephone, who consulted with them as they attempted to retract and lock the source. One of the radiographers loosened the drive cable connection from the device and manually pulled the source back into the camera by the cable, to a fully retracted and locked position. The radiographer that pulled the source back received an estimated whole body dose of 125 millirem, as measured by a self-reading pocket dosimeter. The licensee estimated that the extremity dose was similar to the whole body dose.

The licensee is following up on the event by examining the crank to determine the cause of the jamming, and plans to send it to the manufacturer for further examination. Also, the licensee is confirming the radiation dose by processing the radiographers' whole body film badges. In addition, the licensee will investigate the event and submit a written report to the NRC.

This information is current as of 03:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on April 3, 2000. The State of Florida has been notified.

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