

February 28, 2001

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE** PNO-II-01-010

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.

<b><u>Facility</u></b>	<b><u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u></b>
GE Inspection Services (An Agreement State Licensee) Pascagoula, MS License: MS863-01	Notification of Unusual Event Alert Site Area Emergency General Emergency X Not Applicable

Subject: POTENTIAL RADIOGRAPHER OVEREXPOSURE

The Mississippi Division of Radiological Health (DRH) notified the NRC Operations Center that the licensee had reported a 14.6 rem (146 millisievert) exposure to a radiographer for the month of January 2001. The exposure was recorded on the radiographer's thermoluminescent (TLD) dosimeter used to monitor whole body exposures.

The Corporate Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) is conducting an investigation to determine the circumstances and cause for the excessive dosimeter reading. The licensee has informed the State that there were no reported equipment malfunctions or other events during the month of January 2001. The radiographer's pocket dosimeter readings for all jobs performed during the month totaled only 350 millirem (3.5 millisievert), and the exposures to the radiographer assistants were normal for the month.

The licensee has a separate license with the State of Alabama, Bureau of Radiological Health, with an office located in Mobile, Alabama, and the same radiographic personnel work out of the Mobile, AL office and the Pascagoula, MS office. The Mississippi DRH has discussed the event with the State of Alabama, and the DRH is taking the lead on reporting and evaluating the event since the exposure currently is believed to have occurred in Mississippi.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the NRC Operations Center. This information presented herein has been discussed with the States of Mississippi and Alabama and is current as of 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 28, 2001.

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