August 23, 2002

This Event is not for public disclosure per Agreement State request until 8/28/02.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-044

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
Gonzales Industrial X-Ray, Inc.
Prairieville, Louisiana
License No.: LA-4641-L01
Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification
___ Notification of Unusual Event
___ Alert
___ Site Area Emergency
___ General Emergency
_X_ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL OVEREXPOSURE IN EXCESS OF REGULATORY LIMITS

DESCRIPTION:

On August 23, 2002, the NRC was notified by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) of an exposure to a personnel monitoring badge that was in excess of the regulatory limits.

LDEQ discovered a potential overexposure while reviewing dosimetry records during a routine inspection of an industrial radiography licensee. LDEQ's inspector noted that the dosimetry records indicated that an employee of Gonzales Industrial X-Ray had received an exposure of 208.6 millisievert (20,864 millirem) during the period of June 10, 2002 to July 9, 2002. The licensee informed LDEQ that the employee had provided a written statement that he constantly misplaced his personnel dosimeter and would later find it in the area where they were performing radiography. The employee also sited another instance where he left his personnel dosimeter in an equipment bag adjacent to the radiography camera. The licensee requested that Landauer, the dosimeter processor, conduct an investigation on the badge. Landauer re-assessed the badge and determined that the results were accurate. The licensee reviewed the employee's daily direct reading dosimeter records and determined that his direct reading dosimeter never went off scale. LDEQ is continuing to investigate this event.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center at 2:45 p.m. (CDT) on August 23, 2002. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, OSTP, and Region IV's PAO and SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 3:00 p.m. (CDT) on August 23, 2002.

CONTACTS: Vivian Campbell 817-860-8143
Dwight Chamberlain 817-860-8106