

March 6, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-03-002

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

TMP Worldwide
Cheswick, PA

Dockets/License: 030-29478
License No.: 37-27891-01

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

X

Subject: TRAFFICE ACCIDENT INVOLVING VEHICLE CARRYING RADIOGRAPHY SOURCE

The State of West Virginia Radiological Health Program notified the NRC Operations Center on March 6, 2003, at 1:24 a.m., that a licensee vehicle was involved in a traffic accident in Parkersburg, West Virginia. The accident occurred on March 5, 2003 at 10:51 p.m. The licensee vehicle was carrying an AEA Technology Model 660B industrial radiography camera containing 82 curies of iridium 192. The licensee employee operating the vehicle was incapacitated and unable to assist emergency personnel responding to the accident. An initial radiation survey made by a representative of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection measured a maximum exposure rate of 1 millirem per hour on the exterior of the truck in the area where the radiography camera is normally secured during transportation (e.g., mobile darkroom). Law enforcement officials responding to the accident reported that the mobile darkroom on the vehicle remained intact and secure. The contents of the darkroom remained in the vehicle. The licensee vehicle was removed to a wrecker yard in Mineral Wells, WV. At the request of Region II staff, police officials instructed wrecker yard personnel to isolate the vehicle and to limit access to it.

At the request of Region II, a representative of the State of West Virginia Radiological Health Program went to the wrecker yard to perform confirmatory radiation surveys. The maximum measured radiation level was 0.7 millirem per hour on the exterior of the vehicle. The state representative verified that the mobile darkroom was locked and secure. The licensee has dispatched two employees to the wrecker yard to perform radiation surveys and recover the radiography camera. Licensee personnel will examine the camera for damage and leak test it to verify the integrity of the source.

Local police authorities have the event under investigation.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Headquarters Duty Officer. This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 10:40 a.m., Thursday, March 6, 2003.

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