

This event is not Available for public disclosure per Agreement State request until 07/10/03.

July 8, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-03-011

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

Radiological Assistance, Consulting, & Engineering
(An Agreement State Licensee)
Memphis, TN
License: R-79266

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: CONTAMINATION EVENT

The Tennessee Division of Radiological Health (the Division) notified the NRC Operations Office on July 7, 2003, that the licensee had reported a contamination event at their Memphis, TN facility. Several licensee employees became contaminated on June 26, 2003, while sorting and segregating materials contaminated with low-level radioactive waste that came from a waste broker. Employees were surveyed for contamination prior to leaving the building at the end of the shift, and decontaminated as needed. One individual was reported to have had elevated levels of skin contamination. Following the event, the shop area was shut down for decontamination, and reopened on Sunday, June 29, 2003.

The Division conducted an on-site investigation on July 2 and 3, 2003. The Division reported that seven persons were contaminated, whole body counts were being performed, the personnel monitoring badges had been returned to the supplier for evaluation, and nasal swabs were being analyzed. Preliminary results from the licensee show that the person with the elevated skin contamination had a positive nasal swap, the skin dose was calculated to be 976 millirads, and the whole body dose was 4 millirem from internally deposited cobalt-60. The Division is continuing their investigation of the event.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence from the NRC Operations Office on July 7, 2003. This information has been discussed with Tennessee, and is current as of 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 8, 2003.

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