

January 28, 2004

THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 1/29/04.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-04-004

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, Arlington, Texas, staff on this date.

Facility

Taylor Forge Engineered Systems, Inc.
Paola, Kansas
License No.: 21-B108-01
Kansas Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL RADIATION OVEREXPOSURE OF A RADIOGRAPHER

DESCRIPTION:

On January 26, 2004, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (the State) notified NRC's Operations Center that an industrial radiographer may have received an exposure in excess of the regulatory limits of 5 rem.

Taylor Forge Engineered Systems, Inc., a Kansas licensee, left a phone message at 10:20 p.m. on Friday, January 23, 2004, stating that one of their radiographers may have received an overexposure while performing radiographic operations in a fixed facility at approximately 5:30 p.m. on January 23, using a 2.3 terabequerel (62.1 curie) source of cobalt-60. According to the radiographer, the gamma alarm had malfunctioned. He entered the vault to try to determine the cause of the malfunction, but failed to retract the source. The radiographer stated that he was in the vault approximately 10 - 15 minutes. The radiographer's pocket ion chamber was found to be off-scale. The radiographer's film badge was sent to Landauer dosimetry services for emergency processing. Through re-enactments, the licensee estimated that the radiographer may have received between 15 - 30 rem whole body and up to 87 rem to the hand.

On January 28, 2004, the licensee was notified that the dosimeter indicated a whole body radiation dose below regulatory limits (1.3 rem). Nevertheless, the licensee is planning to perform cytogenetic testing. The licensee will provide the State with updated information as soon it becomes available. The State of Kansas is continuing to monitor this event.

Region IV initially received notification of this occurrence by phone call from the State at 1:30 p.m. on January 26, 2004. Region IV has informed the OEDO, OSTP, NMSS and the Region's PAO and SLO.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the State and is current as of 12:00 p.m. on January 28, 2004.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML040280607

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