

August 25, 2004

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-04-016A

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

Schlumberger Technology Corporation
300 Schlumberger Drive
Sugar Land, TX
LICENSE NO.: L01833-000042
State of Texas Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: UPDATE - POTENTIAL OVEREXPOSURE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

DESCRIPTION:

On July 12, 2004, the Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control (the State) notified NRC's Operations Center of a potential exposure to members of the public from an unshielded cesium-137 (Cs-137) collimated sealed source. The source was used for well logging operations in Pecos County, TX, and contained 62.9 gigabecquerel (1.7 curie) of radioactivity. The licensee reported that a well logging crew was using a rig without a floor at a well site in Pecos County. During the evening of July 9, 2004 the crew moved to a new site. While setting up for work, the crew realized that the source was missing from the well logging tool. The licensee found the source in mud approximately 10-15 feet from the previous rig location. The source was missing for between 24 and 36 hours.

On August 24, 2004, the State provided an update on their investigation into the event which is complete. The State reported that three drilling crew employees (members of the public) received calculated doses greater than the non-occupational limit of 1 millisievert (100 millirem) with the highest estimate being 2.3 millisievert (230 millirem). Another member of the public received a calculated whole body dose of 120 millisievert (1.2 rem). This individual picked up the source by his left hand, which resulted in a dose estimate of 0.49 sievert (49 rem) to his hand. This individual is being monitored weekly by an occupational health physician. In addition, Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site (REACTS) is assisting the licensee and the State in evaluating the doses.

Region IV received initial notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operation Center on July 12, 2004. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, STP and the Region's SLO and PAO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of August 25, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. (CDT)

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML 042380428

CONTACTS: Linda McLean Charles Cain
 817-860-8116 817-860-8186
 mlm1@nrc.gov clc@nrc.gov