

September 12, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-03-038

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 III staff on this date.

Facility

U. S. Inspection Services
Dayton, OH

Docket No. 03035059
License No: 34-06943-02

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: RADIATION OVEREXPOSURE OF A RADIOGRAPHER

DESCRIPTION:

On September 9, 2003, two radiographers were performing work at a temporary job site in West Virginia. During the setup for a shot, the workers realized that the radiation source [REDACTED] of iridium-192) had not been fully retracted following the previous shot.

The licensee's Regional Radiation Safety Officer investigated the event and, based on re-enactment of the work, calculated that the workers did not receive a radiation dose in excess of regulatory limits. However, licensee staff immediately sent the workers' dosimeters for processing.

On September 11, 2003, the licensee was notified that the dosimeter for one worker indicated a whole body radiation dose in excess of regulatory limits (14.15 rem), and the dosimeter for the other worker indicated a whole body radiation dose below regulatory limits (0.627 rem). As a result, the licensee reported the overexposure to the NRC Operations Center at 4:46 p.m. (EDT) that day. The licensee is continuing its evaluation of radiation dose to both workers.

Three NRC inspectors from NRC's Region I and Region II offices were dispatched to the licensee's facility in West Virginia on September 12, 2003, to review the circumstances surrounding the overexposure and the licensee's response to the incident.

The States of Ohio and West Virginia, and the NRC Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards have been notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

The licensee notified Region III (Chicago) of the overexposure at approximately 4:15 p.m. (CST) on September 11, 2003. This information is current as of 12:30 p.m. (CST) on September 12, 2003.

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