

January 26, 2007

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-07-002

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 the Region III staff on this date.

Facility

Conam Inspection  
Carol Stream, IL  
Docket: 03035114  
License: 12-16559-02

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL OVEREXPOSURE OF A RADIOGRAPHER

DESCRIPTION:

On January 20, 2007, a radiographer was performing work at a temporary job site in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. During the setup for a shot, the radiographer realized that the radiation source containing 77 curies of iridium-192 had not been retracted to the shielded position following the previous shot.

The licensee's Radiation Safety Officer investigated the event and initially calculated that the radiographer received between 44 and 55 rem to the right hand and fingers, possibly exceeding the 50 rem regulatory limit. As a result, the licensee reported the overexposure to the NRC Operations Center at 1:41 p.m. (EDT) on January 20, 2007.

Licensee staff immediately sent the radiographer's dosimeter for processing. On January 23, 2007, the licensee was notified that the radiographer's dosimeter indicated a whole body radiation dose of 600 millirem, which is below the 5 rem regulatory limit. The licensee is continuing its evaluation of radiation dose to the radiographer.

An NRC inspector from NRC's Region I office was dispatched to the licensee's facility in Trainer, Pennsylvania on January 22, 2007, to review the circumstances surrounding the exposure and the licensee's response to the incident.

The State of Pennsylvania and the NRC Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management have been notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

This information is current as of 5 p.m. (CST) on January 25, 2007.

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