

INVESTIGATION STATUS RECORD

Case Number: 4-1999-016 Case Agent: (b)(7)(C)
Allegation Number(s): RIV-1999-A-0065 Date Opened: 04/06/1999
Docket Number(s): 03032287 ECD: 7/1999
Facility: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES INDUSTRI Priority: High
Case Code: MI Status: FWP
Primary Alleg Source: A
Subject/Allegation: DELIBERATE VIOLATION OF TWO MAN RULE AND POSSIBLE OVEREXPOSURE

Monthly Status Report:

04/06/1999: On April 5, 1999

(b)(7)(C) (b)(7)(C)
(b)(7)(C) called Kent PENDERGAST, Materials Inspector, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety, Region IV (RIV), and reported an incident that occurred at Eaton Metal Products, Pocatello, Idaho, that involved a potential overexposure. According to (b)(7)(C) Professional Services Industries, Inc., (PSI), an NRC licensee, was conducting radiography on a 2-1/2 inch thick metal vessel [12-foot diameter] inside an Eaton building, and two Eaton employees wanted to enter the building to close a large door that was creating a draft. According to (b)(7)(C) the two employees would have to cross a rope boundary established by the PSI crew to get to the door. The Eaton employees went to the PSI vehicle in the area and noted that one of the PSI employees [NFI] was asleep in the cab of the truck and proceeded to the truck's darkroom to inquire if it was permissible to cross the boundary to close the door. When they knocked on the darkroom door another PSI employee [NFI] called out, "Don't bother me, I am developing film." The two Eaton employees related that they understood the comment to mean that PSI had completed their radiography. According to (b)(7)(C) the Eaton employees crossed the barrier and walked by the vessel and noticed that film was attached to the vessel. At this time, they realized the source was out, and they exited the building and informed the PSI employee what had happened. According to the Eaton employees, the PSI employee [NFI] told them they did not receive enough dose to be concerned about. According to (b)(7)(C) both of the Eaton employees vomited that night. They reported this to their supervision, and a meeting was held with PSI. During the meeting, the PSI radiographer denied he was asleep in the cab of the truck, and the (b)(7)(C) stated the exposure received was minimal and any vomiting by the employees was because of fear and not radiation.

(b)(7)(C) stated that he heard that someone was at Eaton recently taking measurements, and he assumed it was someone from the state or NRC conducting an investigation.

(b)(7)(C) said PSI has a state of Utah and an NRC license. He said he only knew one of the Eaton employees and only by his first name, (b)(7)(C). He related he told the two Eaton employees that he was going to contact the NRC, and they did not object.

On April 5, 1999, the RIV Allegation Review Board discussed the information provided by (b)(7)(C) and DNMS expressed some safety concern if there was an overexposure and PSI failed to report it. The ARB decided that DNMS and the Office of Investigations, RIV, should call PSI and ascertain the details of the alleged incident and based on the results of the contact with PSI, it may be required to obtain information from the employees who may have been subjected to an overexposure. Status: FWP ECD: 07/99 (90-day) Potential Violations: 10 CFR 34.41; 51: 20.1301 and 1302

Information in this record was released in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Exemptions: (b)(7)(C) FOIA/PA 2000-0113

EXHIBIT 1
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April 5, 1999

MEMO TO: ALLEGATION FILE (RIV-1999-A-0065)

FROM: RAY MULLIKIN

SUBJECT: RECORD OF CONVERSATION WITH ALLEGER

The allegor called Kent Prendergast this morning. Kent then called me and asked me to call the allegor.

The allegor relayed an incident that occurred at the Eaton Metal Products facility in Pocatello, Idaho a few weeks ago. The details of the incident were provided to the allegor by two individuals that work for Eaton.

PSI was performing radiography on a 2-1/2 inch thick metal vessel (12 foot diameter) inside an Eaton building. The two Eaton individuals wanted to enter the building in order to shut a large door which was creating a draft. In order to close the door, they would have to cross a rope boundary which was installed for the radiography. The two Eaton employees went to the radiographer's truck and noted that one PSI employees was asleep in the cab. They then went to the truck's camper and knocked on the door. The PSI employee called out "Don't bother me, I am developing film." The Eaton employees understood this to mean that PSI was finished with the radiography.

The Eaton employees crossed the barrier and walked by the vessel and noticed that film was attached to the vessel. At this time they realized that the source was out and they exited the building and told the PSI employees what had happened. PSI told them that they didn't receive enough dose to worry about.

However, that night one of the Eaton employees vomited at home and then called the other. The other employee stated that he also vomited. The next day they reported it to their supervision and a meeting was called.

At the meeting, the PSI radiographer denied that he was asleep in the cab. Also, the (b)(7)(C) (b)(7)(C) stated that the exposure received was minimal (The allegor heard that the source was a 60 curie cobalt source). PSI stated that the vomiting was due to the employees' fear, and not from radiation.

The two Eaton employees are afraid that they were overexposed but are also afraid of getting fired if they make a big issue about it with Eaton. Whenever the allegor comes to Eaton on business, one or both of the employees ask whether he notices any physical changes in them.

The allegor heard that someone was at Eaton last week taking measurements and assumed that either the NRC or the state was investigating. The allegor stated that PSI has an Utah license and also an NRC license.

The allegor granted permission to refer or request information from the state, PSI or Eaton as long as his identity is not divulged. I provided him the information on our process for protecting allegors' identities. He does not desire any correspondence from the NRC but is available to be contacted by the NRC for additional information. He only knows one of the Eaton employees and only by his first name (b)(7)(C). He stated that he told the two employees that he was going to contact the NRC and they did not have a problem with it.

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EXHIBIT 2

(b)(7)(C)

CASE NO. 4-99-016

Information in this record was deleted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Exemptions 7(C) FOIA/PA 2012-0113

The allegor is the (b)(7)
(C) for (b)(7)(C) The allegor's name and address is:

(b)(7)(C)

He prefers to be called at work.