

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: May 14, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-80-77

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: National Valve and Manufacturing Company  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15201  
Licensee No. 37-02895-03

Subject: POSSIBLE OVEREXPOSURE

During Region I inspection of the facility on May 8, 1980, the inspector identified two possible overexposures which the licensee had failed to recognize.

1. On March 18, 1980, a radiographer placed his hand near the source tube coupling of an exposure device from which the radiography source had not been completely returned to the fully shielded location. An initial evaluation by the inspector, based on a whole-body film badge of 60 mrem indicates that this may have represented an exposure to the radiographer's hands of 20-40 rem.
2. On February 11, 1980, another radiographer entered an exposure cell after failing to return the source to the shielded position. According to the radiographer's estimate, he was in the cell for a maximum of three minutes, at a minimum distance of six inches from a 41 curie iridium-192 source. The source was within a collimator and was also shielded by the item being radiographed. The radiographer's film badge, worn on his belt, showed an exposure of 270 millirem, but the inspector's preliminary evaluation indicates that the exposure of some other portion of the body might exceed the quarterly exposure permitted by NRC regulations.

A special inspection to review these exposures will be conducted on May 15 and 16, 1980. Media attention is not expected at this time. A press release will be considered when the investigation is complete.

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