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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: MQS Inspection Inc. Licensee Emergency
 Elk Grove Village, IL Classification:
 License No. 12-00622-07 Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

Subject: RADIOGRAPHER OVEREXPOSURE

On October 26, 1989, the licensee reported that a radiographer received an apparent whole-body overexposure of 4.49 rems, and an assistant, 1.02 rems, while performing radiography on a boiler unit at the Virginia Power Chesapeake Energy Center near Chesapeake, VA on October 17, 1989.

The licensee stated that the two workers relied on two survey meters, one adjacent to the crank handle and the other near the radiography device, to measure radiation as the source was cranked into and out of its shielded position. The survey meter located near the device had apparently become "saturated" and was not responding to radiation when the overexposure occurred. The workers, assuming the source was in its shielded position, continued the operation, and did not discover their exposure until the end of their shift when they found their pocket dosimeters off-scale. According to the licensee it appears that the radiographer failed to lock the device after each exposure and failed to perform adequate radiation surveys.

The licensee has conducted a reenactment of the event and believes the exposure to be valid. It is unknown, however, whether the individuals received the dose in multiples over the entire shift, or from a single exposure. The radiographer has been temporarily removed from work involving radioactive materials.

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*Denotes a Displaywriter/PC not an IBM 5520 Terminal.

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Region II has been notified of this event and will be requested to perform an assist inspection at the licensee's facility located in Hampton, Virginia. Region III (Chicago) also plans to review the circumstances surrounding the event with the licensee at its Elk Grove Village, IL headquarters. The State of Virginia was notified of the event. .

Region III was first informed of this event at 2 p.m. (CDT), October 26, 1989. This information is current as of 1:30 p.m. (CDT), October 27, 1989.

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