

Date: 9/2/81

PNO

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-81- 101

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: Reliance Testing Laboratories
Timonium, Maryland (Docket No. 30-12315)

Subject: OVEREXPOSURE DURING RADIOGRAPHY

On September 1, 1981 while conducting radiography at a manufacturing facility in Edgemere, Delaware, a radiographer employed by the licensee received an exposure to the whole body initially estimated to be 15 rem and to the hands greater than 375 rem. The radiographer was using a 57 curie iridium-192 source and a homemade collimator. The radiographer apparently forgot to withdraw the source at the end of the shot, did not perform a survey, approached the source and began to set up for the next shot. He moved the film and handled the source contained in the collimator for 1 to 2 minutes. When he realized the source was still exposed, he retracted it and called the licensee's Radiation Safety Officer. Inspectors have been dispatched to the licensee's home office in Timonium, Maryland to investigate, conduct reenactments and perform dose estimates.

The States of Maryland and Delaware have been informed. Neither the licensee nor Region I plan a press release at this time. A press release will be considered when dose calculations are complete. There is no known media interest. A medical consultant will also be considered following dose estimates.

Region I received notification of this occurrence from the Headquarters Duty Officer at 10:00 PM on September 1, 1981.

Contact: J. Kinneman 488-1252

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