

November 26, 1990

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-90-42

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 IV staff on this date.

FACILITY: Tumbleweed X-Ray Company  
Greenwood, Arkansas  
License: 03-23185-01  
Docket: 030-28741

Licensee Emergency Classification:  
 Notification of Unusual Event  
 Alert  
 Site Area Emergency  
 General Emergency  
 Not Applicable

SUBJECT: REPORT OF OVEREXPOSURE TO RADIOGRAPHER

The licensee's radiation safety officer (RSO) reported to the Region IV office that an assistant radiographer may have received excessive radiation exposure. The assistant is reported to have experienced reddening of one of his hands, the cause of which is unknown.

The RSO, located in Arkansas, first learned of the incident through a telephonic report on November 25, 1990, from a licensee radiographer in Oklahoma. The radiographer stated that he worked with the assistant during radiography conducted in Burns Flat, Oklahoma, on November 12, 1990, during which the assistant's pocket dosimeter registered off scale for an unknown reason. The radiographer reported no other unusual circumstances associated with the work and stated that they had used 50 curies of iridium-192 in a SPEC 2T exposure device.

The RSO stated that he is planning to acquire the assistant's whole body TLD badge so that it can be forwarded to the vendor for processing. He also plans to refer the assistant to a physician for examination. The RSO also reported that the assistant was hospitalized on November 16, 1990, for personal problems unrelated to work activities.

The Region IV office received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the licensee RSO at 9:30 a.m. CST on November 26, 1990. Region IV will await further reports from the licensee, including results of badge processing and a detailed investigation report from the RSO.

The state of Oklahoma has been informed.

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