

April 13, 1994

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-94-015A

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

Blazer Inspection
Tx Agreement State Licensee
Texas City, Texas

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
X Not Applicable

Subject: RADIOGRAPHER OVEREXPOSURE - UPDATE

This update of PNO-IV-94-015 provides additional information from the Texas Bureau of Radiation Control (BRC) concerning an overexposure to a radiographer's fingers. The radiographer has been told by his doctor that he may return to work.

A reenactment of the incident by Texas BRC staff disclosed an estimated dose of 1500 Rads to the forefinger and thumb of the radiographer's left hand, which could account for the blistering observed on the radiographer's finger and thumb. The whole body film badge reading of 1.05 Rems appeared to be correctly reported.

Blazer Inspection had ordered an INC Model No. 22 source from the manufacturer for their Gamma Century radiography camera. An INC Model No. 32, at 98 Ci of iridium-192, was sent instead. This source model is not usable in a Gamma Century camera. This may have been the reason for the initial source disconnect experienced by the radiographer.

The Texas BRC is taking escalated enforcement action, and will write an Abnormal Occurrence Report on the incident.

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