

April 14, 1994

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-94-017

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.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Texas Agreement State	Notification of Unusual Event
Bix Testing Laboratories	Alert
Baytown, Texas	Site Area Emergency
	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: RADIOGRAPHER TRAINEE OVEREXPOSURE

The Texas Bureau of Radiation Control (BRC) notified Region IV of a radiography overexposure event that occurred on March 23, 1994, at a temporary jobsite for a pipeline radiography job.

A radiographer trainee attempted to take some radiographs on his own while the other radiographer was in the darkroom developing films. The trainee had not completed his on-the-job training requirements and, therefore, was not fully qualified to perform radiography on his own. He also had not yet passed his Texas radiographer certification exam. The mishap became apparent when the trainee's pocket dosimeter was observed to be offscale. The licensee sent the film badge in for an immediate reading, which was found to be 21.36 rems whole body. No higher extremity exposures were thought to occur because the trainee was back far enough from the camera so that only the whole body exposure was significant. The other radiographer's badge read 40 millirem.

The Texas BRC immediately investigated the incident at the field site and completed an investigation report on March 25, 1994, concluding that the exposure was an actual whole body exposure caused by several different actions, which were in violation of regulatory requirements.

The Texas BRC is considering escalated enforcement action at this time. Region IV received notification on this event on April 14, 1994. The Texas BRC had not notified NRC soon after becoming aware of the event due to the press of other activities.

Contact: Robert J. Doda  
(817)860-8139

1E 34  
o/i