

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

February 2, 1981

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-81-04B

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: General Public

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SERIOUS RADIATION EXPOSURE UPDATE

The exposed individual is still in the St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He is currently receiving whole blood transfusions, antibiotics and is in reverse isolation to prevent infection which is the major medical concern at this time. A cytogenetic study under the direction of Dr. C. C. Lushbaugh, DOE, Oak Ridge, Tennessee and in consultation with Dr. Maxfield, NRC medical consultant is planned to determine the radiation dose. Blood tests performed on the individual's sister and niece showed no abnormalities.

A signed statement by the exposed individual given to the NRC investigators alludes only to radiography work performed in New Mexico in September and October, 1980 and admits to no contact with radioactive material since that time. Interviews by NRC inspectors with several persons knowing, or having contacts, with the individual have provided no hard evidence to explain the injury. However, the interviews established that the individual's health was apparently excellent until after the first of the year.

Circumstantial evidence developed by the NRC investigators indicate a possible connection between the exposed individual and the radiography camera that was missing during the latter part of December, 1980 and anonymously returned to the licensee on January 5, 1981.

The investigation by Region IV is continuing.

A press release was made by Region IV on January 27, 1981. Media interest in Oklahoma has been considerable.

The states of Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas and Office of State Programs are being kept informed of the status of the case.

The information is current as of 1:00 p.m. on February 2, 1981.

Contact: Glen D. Brown, (RIV), 334-3475

8304280259 820202
PDR I&E
PNO-IV-81-004B PDR

DESIGNATED ORIGINAL

Certified By *Kim Kilcrease*

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