

March 28, 1983

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-83-14

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 NRC staff on this date.

FACILITY: Metils, Inc.
Houston, Texas
License No. 42-16534-01

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

SUBJECT: SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

On March 25, 1983, a licensee representative contacted the HQ duty officer concerning the apparent overexposure of an individual at Prudeau Bay, Alaska. Region IV discussions with the licensee on March 25 and 26, 1983, revealed that an unmonitored worker had crawled into a 24-inch pipe and while he was inside, three radiographic exposures were taken from the outside of the pipe. Based on time and distance calculations, the worker could have received a whole body exposure of 30-40 Rem. The worker is now at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital where blood studies are being conducted. The State of Alaska has been notified.

Media interest in Alaska and Texas is expected.

CONTACT: R. J. Everett, 728-8187

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3/28 faxed to Comm. for dispatch 10:35