

August 6, 1985

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-85-39A

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: Western Stress Company
Evanston, Wyoming
Docket: 30-22259

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

SUBJECT: APPARENT OVEREXPOSURE OF TWO RADIOGRAPHERS (UPDATE)

Region IV was notified by telephone on August 5, 1985, that two radiographers had received whole body exposures of 27 R and 9 R during an incident that began on August 1, 1985, near Table Rock, Wyoming. A third individual received 0.6 R. Hand exposures are being evaluated. The 28 curies iridium -192 source became disconnected from the drive cable and remained at the end of the guide tube for approximately 2 days. The licensee advised RIV that the guide tube with the exposed source was returned to his facility and subsequently reused for another radiography operation before discovery of the exposed source. No radiation surveys were taken by the radiographers. The source has now been retrieved and is safely shielded.

The Chief, Nuclear Materials Safety Section has been dispatched to the licensee's facilities to evaluate the adequacy of the licensee's assessment of personnel exposures. He will encourage the licensee to arrange for medical evaluation of the individuals involved and will coordinate expert medical support if appropriate.

Region IV does not plan to issue a press release. Media interest is not expected. The licensee does not plan to issue a press release.

The state of Wyoming has been informed.

This information is current as of 12:00 noon, August 6, 1985.

CONTACT: R. J. Everett, 728-8187

RIV/D:DRS&S RA
RLB/gart/nh RDMartin
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PDR I&E
PNO-IV-85-039A PDR

Dispatched to HQ via fax pak 8/6/85 4:27 p.m.

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