

PDR advance copy
for J. R. Ruff

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

January 7, 1977

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-77-06

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event 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: Atlantic Research Corporation, License No. 45-0208-04,
Gainesville, Virginia.

Subject: CONFIRMATION OF OVEREXPOSURE OF A RADIOGRAPHER TO RADIOGRAPHY
SOURCE

The possible overexposure reported by PNO-76-220 on December 15, 1976, has been confirmed following the appearance on January 3, 1977 of erythema on the first two fingers and thumb of the radiographer's right hand. The radiographer is continuing to receive medical treatment on an outpatient basis.

Recalculation of the possible hand contact dose rate from the Co-60 sealed source has resulted in values from 2,000 to 8,000 rem. Uncertainties in the basic parameters and in the re-enactment of the event have made better estimates difficult. Thermoluminescent dosimeter (TLD) data will be used to refine the calculated dose.

The erythema threshold from Co-60 energies is in the range of 1,000 to 3,000 rem. A blood sample for cytogenetic analysis was collected from the radiographer on January 3, 1977 and an NRC Medical Consultant is following the case.

Region II (Atlanta) plans to issue a press release.

Region II received notification of this confirmation of exposure from the licensee by telephone at 4:15 p.m., January 5, 1977.

Contact: GCGower, IE x27261, GWRoy, IE x27261, DThompson, IE x 27541

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