

PDR advance copy
for J. Ralby

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION - NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

November 17, 1975
PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE --PN-75-128

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 OIE staff as of 4:00 p.m. on the date of this notification. IT SHOULD BE SPECIFICALLY NOTED THAT THIS NOTIFICATION MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT LATER MAY BE DETERMINED TO BE INACCURATE OR INCONSISTENT. AN OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT NOTIFICATION OF AN INCIDENT OR OCCURRENCE (BLUE SHEET) SUBSEQUENTLY WILL BE ISSUED IF WARRANTED.

-- Facility: Value Engineering Company
Alexandria, Virginia

Subject: POSSIBLE EXCESSIVE RADIATION EXPOSURE TO RADIOGRAPHER

At 4:00 p.m. on November 14, Region II was notified by telephone that a radiographer employed by Value Engineering Company (VE) of Alexandria, Virginia, had possibly received a 28 rem whole body exposure.

It was reported by VE that at the end of the November 11 work day at a Washington, D. C. jobsite, the radiographer reported his pocket dosimeter was offscale. His film badge was sent to R. S. Landauer and Company for processing and the 28 rem result was telephoned to Value Engineering on November 14. The radiographer and his assistant were using a Cumberland Research Company Model CRC-120 camera containing approximately 80 Ci of Ir-192.

VE also reported that all radiographic equipment and survey instruments were reported as operating properly. All survey results and radiographs obtained during the day were normal and the radiographer and assistant both claim that proper precautions and procedures were followed. The pocket dosimeter of the radiographer's assistant registered 5 mR for the day; his film badge is being processed and the results will be available early in the week of November 16.

No explanation for the high reading has yet been reported by Value Engineering or determined by the Region II representative dispatched to VE on Saturday, November 15. At this point, however, the exposure to the radiographer must be assumed to be valid. The radiographer is scheduled to undergo medical examination on November 17.

No known publicity has yet occurred. The licensee does not plan to issue a press release. Region II is continuing its investigation.

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