

November 10, 2003

THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE UNTIL 11/14/2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-047

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 the Region IV staff on this date.

Facility

Chemsyn Science Labs
Lenexa, KS
License No.: 25-B561-01
Kansas Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: REPORTED POTENTIAL RADIATION OVEREXPOSURES DUE TO C-14 INTAKE

DESCRIPTION:

On November 7, 2003, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment reported that two employees of the licensee may have received intakes of carbon-14 (C-14) resulting in potential whole-body exposures of approximately 8 rems and 9 rems, respectively.

The intakes occurred as a result of a leaking ampoule containing C-14 in benzene. The flame-sealed glass ampoule contained 252 millicuries (9.3 GBq) of C-14 in 221 microliters of benzene which was being readied for shipment to a customer. The ampoule was wiped for contamination and placed on a counter outside of the fume hood for approximately 2 hours. Initially the ampoule was thought to be in the fume hood. The ampoule was later found to be leaking, and only 59 millicuries (2.2 GBq) remained in the ampoule.

The event occurred on October 28, 2003, and urinalysis was performed immediately on the two workers. An estimate of the radiation doses to the workers on that date was 2.5 rems; however, final analysis of the samples by the licensee on November 7 revealed the higher doses which exceeded the regulatory limits. The licensee then initially notified the State of the incident on November 7.

The State of Kansas has an inspector at the licensee's site today to determine further details of the incident, to review dosimetry data, and evaluate what radiation doses were received.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on November 7, 2003. Region IV has informed NMSS, OEDO, STP, and Region IV's PAO and SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 1:00 p.m. on November 10, 2003.

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