

December 20, 2005

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-05- 018A

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

Iris NDT
Tulsa, OK
Oklahoma Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: UPDATE - RADIOGRAPHER'S DOSE EXCEEDS REGULATORY LIMITS

BACKGROUND: On November 19, 2005, the State of Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (the State) notified the NRC Operations Center (EN 42156, PNO-IV-05-018) of a potential overexposure of a radiographer. On November 22, 2005, the State informed the NRC that the thermoluminescent dosimeter (TLD) result was 44 millisievert (4.4 rem) external dose for the incident. The radiographer's total year-to-date external dose is 69 millisievert (6.9 rem), a dose in excess of the NRC's annual occupational limit of 50 millisievert (5 rem). Initially the State reported that, based on re-enactments by the licensee, the radiographer received potential calculated doses of 230 millisievert (23 rem) external dose.

The licensee contracted with the National Radiological Protection Board (the Board) in England to perform cytogenetic testing on the radiographer. On December 20, the results of the test were received. The Board reported the whole body exposure was 0.04 gray (4.0 rad), which agrees with the results of the TLD.

Region IV has continued to monitor the State's activities in determining the radiographer's exposure and received this information by phone from the State of Oklahoma on December 20, 2005. Region IV has informed the OEDO, NMSS, STP, and the Region's SLO and PAO.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the State and is current as of 10:30 a.m. on December 20, 2005.

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