

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: October 9, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-79-05

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 IE staff on this date.

Facility: Geo-Mechanics, Inc.  
Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania  
(LN 37-17332-01)

Subject: POTENTIAL 10 to 15 REMS WHOLE BODY EXPOSURE TO LICENSEE EMPLOYEE

On Monday morning, October 8, 1979, a licensee employee picked up a 7.5 millicurie Cesium-137 source which had separated from the retraction rod of a moisture density gauge. The employee placed the source in his pocket and carried it from the temporary work site to the Geo-Mechanics, Incorporated facility, which took about 30 minutes. Preliminary estimates by the licensee's radiological consultant are that the individual received between 10 and 15 rems to an area of the whole body. The source has been safely stored and the individual has been removed from all duties involving radioactive material. Surveys indicate that there was no leakage of radioactive material from the source. Region I will conduct a special inspection on October 9, 1979; based on these findings Region I will consider the use of an NRC Medical Consultant. Region I will issue a press release if the special inspection confirms an overexposure occurred. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed.

Region I (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the licensee's consultant at 12:30 p.m. on October 9, 1979.

POOR ORIGINAL

Contact: J. Glenn, RI, 488-1343 P. Jerman, RI, 488-1215

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