

February 19, 1993

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-93-007

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

Ultrasonics Specialists, Inc.
Ultrasonics Specialists, Inc.
Sulfur, Louisiana

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
X Not Applicable

Subject: Radiography Overexposure

The Louisiana Radiation Protection Division (LRPD) notified Region IV of an overexposure that occurred to a radiographer on February 5, 1993, while working on a job in Sulfur, Louisiana. The LRPD staff investigated the incident on February 8, 1993, obtained film badge results, and performed a reenactment of the incident on February 17, 1993. The radiographer received a 13.5 rem exposure, as reported by the film badge company.

A broken source connector and the lack of proper use of a survey instrument were the primary causes of the overexposure. The reenactment indicated that any possible exposure to the hands would be of lesser concern.

The broken source connector is part of a drive cable assembly manufactured by Industrial Radiography Maintenance and Supply of Amelia, Louisiana. Since this was the third instance in the past 2 1/2 years, of a broken source connector for this particular cable assembly, the LRPD investigated the company's distribution of this equipment. The results were that only Louisiana licensees, and possibly one Texas licensee, were users of the equipment. The LRPD is issuing a bulletin regarding the use of this equipment to Louisiana licensees.

The State is continuing its investigation and Region IV will monitor the case as new information becomes available. The State is furnishing copies of all reports and notices to Region IV.

Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans to issue a press release.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by LRPD staff at 4:30 p.m. on February 18, 1993. Region IV has informed NMSS, SP, and the state of Texas.

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