

July 6, 1982

MEMO TO: File

SUBJECT: Investigation of Badge Reading
(Badge 52) of 48,000 mrem,
May 1982 Teledyne Report - Parsippany

Summary

Badge #52 was reported to have received 48,000 mrem in the subject report. Upon receipt of the report, Mr. Tom Pelton at Teledyne was contacted and asked to verify the reading. On 6-18-82 Mr. Pelton verbally confirmed the reading, and agreed to submit a written report to Isomedix on his findings (Attachment 1).

A preliminary investigation into the matter by Mr. George Dietz and Mr. George Baker, both of whom spoke with the subject and other individuals, and both of whom reviewed other data, was made on 6-18-82. The preliminary conclusion was that while the badge may have received the dose, the individual did not.

On 6-18-82, Mr. Jack Davis, Region I, NRC, was advised of the reading, and details of our preliminary investigation were reviewed. Mr. Davis suggested possible steps to help establish the no-dose conclusion, including those regarding future company liability. In view of our preliminary conclusions, Mr. Davis stated that written notification of the reading to NRC was not required.

The subsequent investigation revealed no further facts to cause any change of opinion from the original. We believe that the individual concerned could not have received the dose recorded by the badge (#52) in question.

The individual's position of maintenance helper requires that he have two primary work locations:

- a. The maintenance room where he assists the wearer of Badge #5 and the wearer of Badge #28 in the assembly of "Gammacells" and other related mechanical, maintenance and assembly assignments. This area comprises about 75% of his job area.
- b. In-cell maintenance of the irradiator conveying system. This consists of replacing or repairing cylinders (pneumatic), switches, monorail, and other related equipment. It should be noted that this is again with the wearer of Badge #28, and that since Badge #52 is not an authorized operator, he cannot gain access to the irradiator by himself. This portion comprises about 25% of his job.

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During the course of this investigation the Plant Manager, Badge #7, the Production Manager, Badge #32, the wearers of #28 and #5 were all queried as to the subject's relationship with his co-workers. All stated that he did not seem to have any problems with any co-workers, and was, in fact, a quiet and agreeable person who seemed to get along well with everyone.

It should be noted that the company is currently in the process of union negotiations after a protracted organizing campaign by Teamsters Local 478. This organization has taken place after two separate votes to admit the union to represent the employees. One, the first, was voted down, and the second, after union appeal of the first, was voted in. There has been during the course of these organizing attempts some labor unrest, including a strike. There is some reason, therefore, to suspect the possibility of covert actions to cause inconvenience to the company during this time. Recently, another employee's badge (#45) did disappear for approximately one week and then reappear. At this time we do not know if a dose has been recorded on it.

It is the opinion of the investigators, based on the stated information that, although the badge did receive the dose stated in the report, the individual did not.

The subject has been scheduled for an examination and blood work on July 9, 1982, with Dr. G. Gerstein of Gerstein and Adler, 101 Madison Avenue, Morristown, New Jersey. Dr. Gerstein is a local hemotologist and oncologist. This is to insure that no apparent radiation effects are present. This report will be forwarded to you when it is received.

This report will complete our investigation of this incident.

George B. Baker

GBB:of

LIST OF BADGE NUMBERS ASSIGNED:

Badge #52
Badge #28
Badge #5
Badge #7
Badge #32

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- a. The maintenance room where he assists the wearer of Badge #5 and the wearer of Badge #28 in the assembly of "Gammacells" and other related mechanical, maintenance and assembly assignments. This area comprises about 75% of his job area.
- b. In-cell maintenance of the irradiator conveying system. This consists of replacing or repairing cylinders (pneumatic), switches, monorail, and other related equipment. It should be noted that this is again with the wearer of Badge #28, and that since Badge #52 is not an authorized operator, he cannot gain access to the irradiator by himself. This portion comprises about 25% of his job.

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To recap the individual's job assignment, he is an assistant to Badge #28 and is seldom if ever out of the company of either Badge #5 or Badge #28.

The badge readings of #28 and #5 for the period in question were both zero (0). Further, the pocket dosimeters of Badge #28 and Badge #5 have not shown a dose reading.

While Badge #52 was assigned and was wearing a pocket dosimeter, he had failed to sign it in and out each day as required. This is understandable due to a language barrier misunderstanding which has since been rectified. However, he had worn pocket dosimeter #7110010 each day and had never zeroed it. On the date of interview, June 18, 1982, the pocket dosimeter read forty (40) mrad.

The interviews with the wearers of Badge #5 and Badge #28 revealed that they had no knowledge of any activity by the wearer of Badge #52 which could have put him in any position to receive any radiation dose. Both stated that anywhere Badge #52 went they or one of them was present and could recall no circumstance which would have made his exposure history any different than theirs. (See Attachments 2 and 3).

The wearer of Badge #52 was interviewed extensively about the activities during this time period. He stated that he had been nowhere in the facility out of his ordinary work areas, that he did in fact work with the wearers of Badge #28 and #5 during the period in question. He further stated that he had not been in any job location other than his routine assignments during the period.

The wearer of Badge #52 stated that he had worn his badge and pocket dosimeter each day, that he had not missed or misplaced his badge during this period. He stated he did not take his badge home or leave it anywhere in the plant but had it at all times during work and had replaced it on the storage rack upon leaving work.

He stated he had not felt ill during the period and examination of his attendance record revealed only one absence, which was an excused absence for the purpose of auto repair.

The badges are stored on a rack above the time clock in the warehouse area of the plant. It should be noted that this is not a secure area and the badges are available to anyone in the plant. Since there is a requirement to wear the badges on a routine basis and the facility does operate on a three-shift basis, there is no contemplation of a change to this procedure.

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