



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

June 14, 1974

NOTE FOR GEORGE GARDES
JOHN GRIFFIN
ROGER MATTSON
AL ROTHENBERG
MIKE HAWKINS

Enclosed for your information is the text of a public announcement of an apparent high overexposure of radiation to an employee of Isomedix, Inc. of Parsippany, New Jersey. The announcement was issued from the Region I Office of the Directorate of Regulatory Operations this morning, June 14.

Frank L. Ingram
Frank L. Ingram, Chief
Regulatory News Branch
Office of Information Services

Enclosure

cc: General Manager
Director of Regulation
Director of Regulatory Operations

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Isomedix, Inc., of 25 Eastmans Road, Parsippany, New Jersey, informed the Atomic Energy Commission on June 13, 1974, that one of its employees had received an apparently high overexposure of radiation.

The man, Chief of Radiation Operations for the Company, was treating a drum full of plastic material with intense radiation from a cobalt-60 source when the accident occurred, said the Company. He apparently entered the room where the source was located while the source was not completely inside steel and concrete radiation shielding, and was briefly exposed. When he realized what had happened, he left the room and summoned aid, said the Company.

The man has been hospitalized. The cobalt source, used by the Company to sterilize medical and other products, has been secured and poses no threat to other workers, or to the general public. It's radiation, similar to x-ray's, does not cause contamination.

AEC medical consultants are on the case, and the Regulatory Staff of the AEC is investigating the circumstances of the accident.

The Company said that it appeared the normal procedure of having workers approach the door to the irradiation area with a hand-held radiation meter was not followed in this case. The facility was last inspected by the AEC on May 15, 1974, and was found to be in compliance with AEC regulations.

The state of New Jersey was notified.