



K A N S A S

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

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KANSAS INFORMATION NOTICE 04-03

RADIATION EXPOSURES TO MEMBERS  
OF THE PUBLIC IN EXCESS OF  
REGULATORY LIMITS CAUSED BY  
FAILURES TO PERFORM APPROPRIATE  
RADIATION SURVEYS DURING WELL-  
LOGGING OPERATIONS

Addressees

All Kansas well log licensees.

Purpose

The State of Kansas is issuing this Information Notice (IN) to inform licensees of NRC Information Notice 2004-003 which describes events, some of which resulted in oilfield workers receiving radiation doses in excess of 1.0 millisievert (mSv) [100 millirem (mrem)] per year.

Description of Circumstances

The NRC conducted an inspection to review an event involving the loss of control of a cesium-137 (Cs-137) well-logging source and the unintended radiation exposure to several members of the public (rig workers).

The inspection team determined that well-logging sources do, periodically, fall off the handling tools during source transfers.

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENT

Bureau of Air & Radiation

Radiation and Asbestos Control Section

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The potential for unnecessary exposures, and of exposures exceeding Kansas dose limit to members of the public, is high whenever such an event occurs.

### Discussion

Regulations do not specifically require that a licensee perform a radiation survey of source containers before leaving a temporary job site, but, licensees are required to develop and follow written operating procedures involving methods and occasions for conducting radiation surveys.

The regulations require that licensees control and maintain constant surveillance of licensed material that is in a controlled or unrestricted area and not in storage. Kansas considers a licensee's failure to secure or constantly maintain surveillance of licensed material a significant safety issue.

Although individual licensees are not required to take any specific action, they should consider reviewing the contents of the NRC Information Notice with those responsible for well-logging source transfers, to reinforce the need and importance of confirming the proper transfer of sources from logging tools to their respective shielded transport containers, before leaving the well site.

This Information Notice requires no specific action nor written response. If you have any questions about the information in this notice, contact this office or one of the technical contacts listed on the NRC Information Notice or the appropriate regional office.