

## **N388. Cameras Offer A Clearer Picture To ALARA Group**

ALARA personnel at Health Physics department from Vermont Yankee has replaced the snapshot-photo technology with digital cameras in identifying high-dose areas. Up to 50 photos can be captured by the digital camera on one computer disk. The camera then is then plugged into a personal computer, and, through a graphics software program, each image can be brought up on a viewing monitor or printed in color on paper in the form of a "photo map".

Now, as a daily part of the ALARA pre-planning effort, workers check photo maps to physically see high dose spots and sources of exposure before entering a high-radiation area. The Health Physics Department is also planning on posting photo maps outside of high-radiation areas that are entered infrequently. This way, a worker will have a familiarity of the area's layout when a high-rad area is entered.

Areas where the digital cameras excel for ALARA:

- 1) On routine surveillance, where images of plant housekeeping problems are recorded, so a hard copy can be shown to the affected parties. Another picture is taken after resolution of the housekeeping problem, so "before and after" photos can be shown as examples of what to watch out for and what to avoid.
- 2) During ALARA briefings, to show exactly which high-dose areas are to be avoided or to be watched. This is especially useful for new workers who have never before seen an area.
- 3) To document shielding placement, especially temporary shielding.
- 4) For storage, images are compressed and stored on a backup tape for later retrieval. The ALARA group plans on having a complete library of backup tapes of outage. Images can also be pulled up from the computer and use it again by adding the new dose rates.

*Taken from, "Cameras Offer a Clearer picture to ALARA Group," pp.23-24, Nuclear News, May 1995/Vol.38/No.6.*