

October 30, 2007

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-07-013

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 III staff on this date.

Facility

Karmanos Cancer Center
4100 John R
Detroit, Michigan
Docket: 030-09376
License: 21-04127-06

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: MEDICAL EVENT

DESCRIPTION:

On October 24, 2007, a medical event occurred at the Karmanos Cancer Center involving a "Gamma Knife" treatment for a patient's brain tumor. While taking an MRI image of the patient's brain in preparation for treatment, the right and left sides of the brain were reversed in the image. This resulted in treatment being delivered to the left side of the brain, rather than the right side where the tumor is located.

The patient has been informed. The Cancer Center is evaluating the effects of the event on the patient and trying to determine the root cause of the event.

On October 29, 2007, inspectors from the NRC's Region III office were dispatched to the licensee's facility to review the circumstances surrounding the medical event and the Cancer Center's response to the incident. The NRC has also hired a medical consultant to review the consequences of the event.

The State of Michigan has been informed.

The information in the public notification has been read to the Cancer Center.

This information is current as of 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 30, 2007.

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