

February 28, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-00-006

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 Region I staff in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania on this date.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Columbia University	Notification of Unusual Event
Columbia University	Alert
New York, New York	Site Area Emergency
License No: Agreement St	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: DELIBERATE INTERNAL CONTAMINATION OF STUDENT

The NRC Region I Office and NRC Operations Center were notified by the New York City Health Department's Bureau of Radiological Health (BRH) of a sequence of events in which a Columbia University student and her apartment had been contaminated with phosphorus 32 (P-32). The internal dose received by the individual appears to be less than 10 millirem. The BRH performed an investigation that agreed with the licensee's conclusion that the student's apartment was contaminated on two occasions as a result of the student's intentional actions. Bioassay of the student's roommate did not indicate any uptake. The University is in the process of conducting a disciplinary hearing.

Columbia University holds an academic research and development broad scope license from BRH. The State of New York is an Agreement State and has jurisdiction over the use of byproduct material within its borders. BRH implements the Agreement State program for medical and academic licensees within the City of New York.

BRH concurs with the technical content of this PN.

This information is current as of 12:00 noon, February 28, 2000. The Region I Office of Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquires.

Contact: Duncan White
(610)337-5042

1E34