

March 6, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-00-014

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 II staff (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

Facility	Licensee Emergency Classification
Clinical Pharmacy Services	Notification of Unusual Event
(An Agreement State Licensee)	Alert
Gray, Tennessee	Site Area Emergency
License No: R-90033-C01	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: IODINE-131 SPILL

The Tennessee Division of Radiological Health (DRH) notified the NRC Operations Center on March 6, 2000 of a reported iodine-131 spill that occurred at the licensee's facility on March 1, 2000. The licensee notified the DRH on March 3, 2000 that the event occurred while moving a syringe containing 150 millicuries of iodine-131 from one hood to another for dose calibration. DRH inspectors conducted an on-site investigation on Monday, March 6, 2000 and are continuing their evaluation.

The DRH reported that the licensee initially attempted to decontaminate the fume hood containing the isotope, and during the process the room area outside the fume hood was contaminated, which also resulted in contamination of two employees. The event resulted in the contamination of worker hands, as well as laboratory clothing, shoes, gloves, and personnel monitoring devices. The licensee reportedly conducted surveys, collected air samples and performed bio-assays on the two individuals. The maximum bio-assay was reported as 0.013 microcuries uptake to the thyroid of one individual. The NRC annual limit of intake for iodine-131 is 50 microcuries. The fume hood stack sampler was reported at 1.09 E-8 microcuries per milliter. The NRC limit for iodine-131 in effluents released in air to unrestricted areas is 2.0 E-10 microcuries per milliter.

DRH has reported that the initial information reported to the Operations Center (air concentrations and occupational dose) came from the licensee and could not be substantiated. The State reported that at this time there is no indication of other personnel or unrestricted areas being contaminated. The DRH has requested the licensee to obtain an outside contractor to clean up the facility.

NRC has offered assistance to the State if needed.

This information is current as of 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 7, 2000.

Contact: R. Woodruff
(404)562-4704