

March 20, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-00-015

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
University Of Kentucky	Notification of Unusual Event
(Agreement State Licensee)	Alert
Lexington, Kentucky	Site Area Emergency
	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: SKIN OVEREXPOSURE

On March 13, 2000, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Public Health notified the Office of State Programs of an event that took place on January 12, 2000, at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. The event involved the contamination of two individuals and a skin overexposure of one individual. The dose to the skin was 100 rem (10 CFR 20 limit is 50 rem).

According to the Commonwealth's report, a physician, assisted by a nuclear medicine technologist, was administering a dosage of 140 millicuries of I-131 to a patient for thyroid ablation. The method of administration was by injection into an existing stomach tube. Upon completion of the administration/procedure, I-131 was sprayed into the air contaminating the technologist and physician.

The physician was decontaminated, but after showering, the nuclear medicine technologist was still contaminated on the hands, neck, hair, and torso. Within two hours of the event, the nuclear medicine technologist was administered a blocking dose of potassium iodide. A thyroid count on March 13, showed uptake of 0.0022 uCi giving an estimated thyroid dose of 35 mrem. The licensee estimated the skin dose to the nuclear medicine technologist to be 100 rem over a period of 20 days.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky stated that they will follow-up on this event during an inspection in April.

This information presented herein has been discussed with the Commonwealth of Kentucky and is current as of 10:00 a.m. on March 20, 2000.

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