

November 15, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-00-032

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 IV staff on this date.

**Facility**

Drew Memorial Hospital  
Monticello, Arkansas  
License No.: ARK-482-BP-02-00  
Arkansas Licensee

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: MISSING RADIOACTIVE CALIBRATION SOURCES

DESCRIPTION:

On November 15, 2000, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADOH) notified Region IV that four (4) radioactive calibration sources, used in nuclear medicine, were reported missing by an Arkansas licensee. The Arkansas licensee, Drew Memorial Hospital, located in Monticello, Arkansas notified the State on Tuesday, November 14, 2000. Three cobalt-57 sources (accelerator-produced material) and one cesium-137 vial source containing 6.0 megabecquerel (162.3 microcuries) (Nuclear Associates Model A0328) were reported missing. These sources were normally stored in the nuclear medicine department's "hot lab," and were last accounted for on Thursday, November 9, 2000. The Arkansas State Police, the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, and the Monticello Police Department have been notified.

The State of Arkansas issued a press release on November 15, 2000.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from ADOH on November 15, 2000. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, OSTP and OPA.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 11:30 a.m. on November 15, 2000.

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