

November 20, 2000

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

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: UPDATE ON MISSING RADIOACTIVE CALIBRATION SOURCES

DESCRIPTION:

This is an update on an event that the Arkansas Department of Health (ADOH) reported on November 15, 2000, (PNO-IV-00-032) regarding missing radioactive calibration sources. The Arkansas licensee, Drew Memorial Hospital, located in Monticello, Arkansas had notified the State that 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.

On the morning of November 17, 2000, the State notified NRC that local law enforcement authorities may have recovered these sources in Lincoln County, Arkansas. Later that day, the State responded and confirmed that the local law enforcement had recovered the sources. The sources did not appear to have been tampered with or opened. The ADOH has taken custody of the radioactive sources.

The State of Arkansas issued a press release on November 17, 2000.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from ADOH on November 17, 2000. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, OSTP and OPA.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 3:45 p.m. on November 17, 2000.

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