

July 3, 2001

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE** PNO-II-01-021

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.

<b><u>Facility</u></b>	<b><u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u></b>
Flowers Hospital (An Agreement State Licensee) Dothan, AL Dockets/License: AL - 549	Notification of Unusual Event Alert Site Area Emergency General Emergency X Not Applicable

Subject: MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION DUE TO MISLABELED IODINE-125 SEEDS

On July 3, 2001, Region II received initial notification of this occurrence from the State of Alabama, (reference NRC Event Report No.-38112). The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee/State and is current as of 12:30 p.m. on July 3, 2001.

On June 29, 2001, the Alabama Office of Radiation Control was notified by the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety that Nycomed Amersham, Inc., a State of Illinois agreement State licensee, apparently provided a batch of Iodine-125 seeds, with mislabeled activity levels, to the Flowers Hospital, Dothan Alabama. This resulted in a medical misadministration. The seeds were utilized during an Iodine-125 prostate seed implant procedure which was administered on June 5, 2001, resulting in a 30 percent underexposure to the patient.

Although not required by the Alabama license, the staff at Flowers Hospital assayed the seeds and noted lower values than expected. The seeds were implanted based on the activity levels provided by Nycomed Amersham, Inc., which turned out to be erroneous.

Nycomed Amersham, Inc., acknowledged in correspondence, dated June 25, 2001, to Flowers Hospital that this error was discovered while performing a weekly scrapping and inventory audit, and that 110 seeds labeled with a median activity of 0.414 mCi Iodine-125 were inadvertently filled with 110 seeds having a mean activity of 0.217mCi.

On July 3, 2001, two Alabama State inspectors are conducting a follow up investigation of this matter at the hospital. Region II will continue to follow the outcome of the State's investigation.

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