

September 4, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-01-029

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

Henry County Medical Center
(An Agreement State Licensee)
Paris, TN
License: R-40002

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: MISSING IODINE-125 SEEDS

The Tennessee Division of Radiological Health (the Division) notified the NRC Operations Center on Friday, August 31, 2001, that the licensee had reported the loss of a shipment of radioactive iodine-125 seeds that was delivered by Airborne Express on August 29, 2001. The shipment consisted of 105 iodine-125 seeds having a total radioactivity of 33.6 millicuries (1.24 gigibecquerels). Records show that a shipping clerk at the facility signed for the shipment at 2:00 p.m. on August 29, 200, but the seeds could not be located on August 31, 2001 when needed for a therapy treatment. The licensee's Nuclear Medicine Department and the Radiology Department have been searched without finding the package of radioactive material. The licensee reported that waste dumpsters were emptied and the contents sent to the landfill prior to the discovery of the missing seeds, and the shipping clerk was on vacation until Tuesday, September 4, 2001.

The Division currently has personnel on-site at the facility to conduct an investigation.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence from the State on Friday, August 31, 2001. This information presented herein has been discussed with the State and is current as of 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, September 4, 2001.

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