

June 10, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-02-021

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.

Facility

Isomedics Corporation
(An Agreement State Licensee)
Spartanburg, SC
Dockets/License: 267

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: NON-RADIOLOGICAL FATALITY

The South Carolina Division of Radioactive Materials notified the NRC Operations Center that the licensee had reported a worker fatality at the Isomedics irradiation facility near Spartanburg, South Carolina. The event occurred on Friday, June 7, 2002, when a worker entered the sterilization chamber of the irradiator in an attempt to free some jammed product carriers. The employee was killed when his head was caught between the carriers as they moved together. The licensee reported that the event did not involve the radiation sources used at the facility. The radiation sources were in a safely stored position at the time of the event; and there was no failure of any of the radiation safety systems installed at the facility.

The State OSHA office responded to the event and has the event under investigation.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the NRC Operations Center. This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 1:00 p.m., June 10, 2002.

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