

This Event is not for public disclosure per Agreement State Request until 11/27/02  
Hold for 48 hours

November 25, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-070

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**

Brian LGH Medical Center  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
License No.: 02-06-03  
Nebraska Agreement State Licensee

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: LOST STRONTIUM-90 SOURCE

DESCRIPTION:

On November 22, 2002, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (the Department) notified NRC's Operations Center that a 0.185 gigabequerel (5 millicurie) Strontium-90 (Sr-90) medical source was missing at a hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Nebraska licensee notified the Department on November 22, 2002, that a source and the distal marker were missing from a Novoste Beta Cath System source holder. The source holder holds 16 sources of Sr-90. Each source is 0.185 gigabequerel (5 millicurie). The licensee conducted surveys of the device and the laboratory, but were unable to find the source. The last time the Novoste Beta Cath System was used was on November 13, 2002. The patient treated on that date returned to the hospital for a whole body fluoroscopy, and no source was found. The State is planning to conduct an inspection on November 26, 2002.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on November 22, 2002. Region IV has informed NMSS, OEDO, STP, and Region IV's SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 10:00 a.m. (CST) on November 25, 2002.

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