THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 12/5/02.
December 3, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-075

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
CARTI-UAMS
Little Rock, Arkansas
License No.930-BP-04-09
Arkansas Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification
___ Notification of Unusual Event
___ Alert
___ Site Area Emergency
___ General Emergency
_X_ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: MEDICAL MISADMINISTRATION

DESCRIPTION:

On December 2, 2002, the Arkansas Department of Health (the Department) notified NRC's Operations Center of a reported medical misadministration involving iridium-192 in a high dose-rate remote afterloader. The event is a medical misadministration based on Arkansas' current regulations for the medical use of radioactive material.

CARTI-UAMS, an Arkansas licensee, left a voice mail message reporting the misadministration on November 27, 2002. The Department received the message on December 2, 2002, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The licensee reported that the patient had been prescribed a series of treatments using iridium-192 in a high dose-rate remote afterloader. The first treatment had been administered on November 20, 2002. While reviewing the position verification film for the second treatment on November 27, 2002, the medical physics staff discovered that the treatment tandem had been positioned incorrectly within the cervical treatment cylinder during the treatment on November 20. The treatment resulted in an estimated dose of 5 gray (500 rad) delivered approximately 7 centimeters inferior to the intended treatment site. The Department conducted an onsite investigation on December 2, 2002, and is awaiting a report from the licensee.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on December 2, 2002. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, OSTP and the Region's PAO and SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 1:30 p.m. (CST) on December 3, 2002.

CONTACTS: Vivian Campbell 817-860-8143
Ken Brockman 817-860-8248