

January 15, 2003

THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 1/17/03.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-002

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

St. Francis Hospital
Tulsa, Oklahoma
License No.: OK-07163-01
Oklahoma Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: LOST BRACHYTHERAPY SEEDS

DESCRIPTION: At approximately 3:02 p.m. on January 14, 2003, the Oklahoma Radiation Regulatory Agency (Agency) received notification of the loss of five brachytherapy seeds after their delivery to St. Francis Hospital, an Oklahoma licensee. The licensee initially reported that five 0.013 megabequerel (0.355 microcurie) iodine-125 brachytherapy seeds had been lost while being washed prior to sterilization. The Agency received a correction to the initial notification on January 15, 2002, which changed the activity per seed to 0.013 gigabequerel (0.355 millicuries). The licensee reported that while being washed prior to sterilization, the seeds were believed to have washed down the drain to the public sewer system. The licensee reported that radiation surveys do not indicate that the seeds are in the sink or sink trap. The licensee has not issued a press release at this time. The licensee promptly notified the Agency. The licensee and the Agency are continuing to investigate this event.

Region IV received initial notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on January 14, 2003, and an updated notification from the Agency on January 15, 2003. Region IV has informed the OEDO, NMSS, OSTP, IAT and the Region's PAO and SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 1:00 p.m. on January 15, 2003.

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