

March 13, 2003

THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 3/18/03.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-017

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

Cardinal Health
Albuquerque, NM
License No.: RP261-23
New Mexico Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: LOST IODINE-131 SOURCE

DESCRIPTION:

On March 13, 2003, the NRC Operations Center received notification from the New Mexico Radiation Licensing and Registration Program (the Program) that a package containing iodine-131 was missing.

On March 12, 2003, the Program received notification from Cardinal Health, a New Mexico licensee located in Albuquerque, that a package containing 1.3 gigabequerel (33.8 millicurie) of iodine-131 in an inorganic salt had been lost during shipment to the Cardinal Health facility located in Amarillo, Texas. The Albuquerque facility had prepared the package for shipment by Federal Express Overnight on March 3 for delivery on March 4. The licensee promptly notified Federal Express that the package had not been delivered on March 5 and declared the package missing on March 7. As of this date, Federal Express has been unable to locate the package; however, they are continuing to search. The Program is continuing to investigate this event.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on March 13, 2003. Region IV has informed NMSS, OEDO, OSTP, IAT and the Region's SLO and PAO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 3:00 p.m. on March 13, 2003.

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