

March 19, 2003

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

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 - UPDATE

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.

On March 19, 2003, NRC Region IV was informed by a Federal Express representative that the package had been located. The package was located at the Federal Express facility in Memphis, Tennessee on March 14, 2003 and delivered to the intended recipient in Amarillo, Texas on March 18, 2003.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 1:00 p.m. on March 19, 2003.

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