

September 19, 2003

This Event is not for public disclosure per Agreement State request until 9/22/03

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-03-039

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 III staff on this date.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Chicago Prostate Cancer Center	<input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event
Westmont, Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> Alert
License: IL-02015-01	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
(Agreement State licensee)	<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

SUBJECT: LOST IODINE-125 SEED STRAND

DESCRIPTION:

On September 18, 2003, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) notified the NRC Operations Center that 10 iodine-125 seeds contained in a Medi-Physics 7000 "RAPID Strand" source holder were missing from the Chicago Prostate Cancer Center in Westmont, Illinois.

A total of seven "RAPID Strand" source holders were originally received by the licensee from the vendor. The strands were not used in patient treatments and on September 15, 2003, the licensee decided to ship the strands back to Medi-Physics, Inc. One of the seven strands could not be located and a search of the Cancer Center did not locate the strand. Each of the 10 seeds in the strand currently contains approximately 594 microcuries of iodine-125.

On September 16, 2003, IEMA received notification of the loss from the licensee radiation safety officer. An IEMA inspector performed surveys and interviewed licensee staff members but was unable to locate the strand at the licensee facility. The strand, in a stainless steel shielding tube and sterile packaging, may have been disposed of in the trash.

The NRC's Office of State and Tribal Programs and Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards have been notified. The NRC's Region III (Chicago) Office is monitoring the State's investigation. This information is current as of 1:00 p.m. CDT on September 18, 2003.

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