

March 10, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-03-011

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.

**Facility**

Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center  
Dearborn, Michigan  
Docket: 030-02051  
License: 21-04515-01

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: MEDICAL EVENT DUE TO I-125 SEEDS IMPLANTED IN WRONG TREATMENT SITE

DESCRIPTION:

On March 10, 2003, the licensee reported a medical event when a patient undergoing a permanent prostate seed implant procedure had [REDACTED] iodine-125 seeds, with a total activity of [REDACTED] placed in an unintended treatment area outside of the prostate gland during the procedure. The seeds were placed in the wrong location due to an ultrasound positioning error. The attending urologist misread the ultrasound image which resulted in positioning the implant needles used to insert the I-125 seeds in the wrong location. Licensee staff identified the treatment site error after the procedure was completed, following the review of routine x-ray images taken after implantation. The licensee's medical physicist determined that the patient received a total dose of 16,000 rad to the wrong treatment site.

The hospital has informed the patient and the patient's physician. The licensee has not yet determined if there will be any adverse effects for the patient as a result of the medical event.

Region III (Chicago) will conduct a special inspection during the week of March 10, 2003, to review the circumstances surrounding the medical event. The State of Michigan and the NRC Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards have been notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with the licensee.

The licensee notified the NRC Operations Center of this medical event at 11:30 a.m. EST on March 10, 2003. This information is current as of 4:00 p.m. EST on March 10, 2003.

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