

January 8, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-03-001

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

MidMichigan Medical Center
Midland, Michigan

Docket: 03002013

License: 21-01549-02

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event

Alert

Site Area Emergency

General Emergency

Not Applicable

SUBJECT: BRACHYTHERAPY MEDICAL EVENT

DESCRIPTION:

On January 7, 2003, the licensee's Radiation Safety Officer reported that a patient had received a therapeutic radiation dose 75 percent below the prescribed dose.

The patient, being treated for lung cancer, using a high-dose-rate afterloader containing [REDACTED] of iridium-192, was to receive 2,000 centigray during four fractions of 500 centigray each over a period of four days. The first radiation dose was delivered on January 6, 2003. During the treatment, licensee staff erroneously set the treatment console to deliver 125 centigray rather than the prescribed 500 centigray. On January 7, 2003, licensee staff discovered that the previous treatment was 75 percent less than prescribed. The licensee revised the written directive to deliver the originally prescribed 500 centigray, plus an additional 125 centigray for the next three treatments to make up for the underdose on the first treatment.

The licensee does not anticipate any adverse effects due to this event. The patient was informed that the dose received during the first treatment was lower than intended, and the subsequent treatment would account for the dose difference. The referring physician will be informed.

A RIII materials inspector will conduct a special inspection to review the circumstances of this event during the week of January 27, 2003.

NMSS and the State of Michigan have been notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

The licensee notified the NRC Operations Center of this medical event at 12:33 p.m. EST on January 7, 2003. This information is current as of 8:00 a.m. CST on January 8, 2003.

Contact: Christopher Martin
(630) 829-9825

Jamnes Cameron
(630) 829-9833