



May 15, 2015

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region III
Attn: Materials Licensing Section
2443 Warrenville Rd.
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

RE: **NRC License #21-04515-01**
Event #: 50995 (Previously reported by telephone on 4/20/2015 under 10 CFR 20.2201 (a) (ii))

I became evident that we are missing an I-125 sealed radioactive seed from a tissue sample in pathology department at our hospital.

Following is a follow up written report in compliance with 10 CFR 20.2201 (b).

- (i) **Licensed Material:**
- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Quantity: | 1 |
| Type: | I-125, solid sealed (encapsulated in Tungsten), 4.5 mm Long and 0.5mm diameter |
| Strength: | 0.3 mCi |
- (ii) **Description of circumstances:** Pathology received two tissue specimens. The paperwork indicated that each specimen contained one radioactive seed. Pathology technician removed one seed from the first specimen and the survey indicated that there was no radioactivity left in the specimen. At a later time when the second specimen was examined it was found to have no radioactive seed. A radiation survey of all the counters and the rest of the room indicated that one seed is missing. An examination of the specimen radiograph showed that the first specimen had two seeds, one of the seeds being on the superficial periphery of the specimen. It is our conclusion that that particular seed got removed by the blotter used on the specimen. This blotter was discarded as biohazard waste which is regularly removed from the lab. A complete radiation survey using a Geiger counter revealed that there was no radioactive material in the room.
- (iii) The radioactive seed in question was disposed along with other biohazard material (most likely it got stuck to the blotter)
- (iv) It is our conclusion that no one received any additional exposure due to the loss of radioactive seed.
- (v) At this point we have made every possible effort to find the missing seed.
- (vi) **To ensure that this does not happen again we have changed our procedure as follows:**
1. Before any of the tissue specimens will be worked upon, pathology will confirm that the number of seeds indicated in paperwork correlate with seeds visible in the radiograph which came with the specimen and perform a radiation survey. Tissue specimens will not be taken out of the plastic grid until this confirmation is successful. If there is a discrepancy it will be resolved with the help of surgical staff who provided the specimen to pathology.
 2. Everything which comes in contact with the specimen will be surveyed with Geiger counter before it is discarded or reused to make sure that a seed is not accidentally stuck to anything.
 3. After the radioactive seeds are removed from the specimen a radiation survey will be performed to make sure there are no seeds left in the specimen.

If you have any questions, please contact **Taljit Sandhu, Ph.D. at (313)-593-7564** or sandhut@Oakwood.org. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Taljit S. Sandhu, Ph.D.
Radiation Oncology Department
Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center
18101 Oakwood Blvd.
Dearborn, MI 48123