

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: July 10, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-80-99

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Charles Zimmerman, M. D. - S. G. Bluestein, M.D. Paterson, New Jersey 07504 License No. 29-11187-01

Subject: STOLEN PACKAGE CONTAINING IODINE-131 CAPSULE

Dr. S. G. Bluestein reported that a package containing 4.4 millicuries of iodine-131 had been stolen from his private automobile. The package was in his unlocked vehicle parked in his garage in Upper Montclair, New Jersey. The package was taken sometime between 7:30 p.m. on July 9, 1980 and 9:00 a.m. on July 10, 1980. Dr. Bluestein was transporting the package between office locations. The iodine-131 capsule was manufactured and distributed by Mallinckrodt Nuclear, Maryland Heights, Missouri. If the capsule were removed from the shielded packaging and ingested, the thyroid of the individual ingesting the material would receive a dose capable of impairing thyroid function.

The Region I Office received notification of the stolen package by telephone on July 10, 1980 at 10:30 a.m. Region I will issue a press release.

The State of New Jersey and the Upper Montclair police have been notified of this occurrence. Region I will conduct an inspection of the licensee's activities which permitted the theft to occur in the near future.

Contact: J. D. Kinneman 488-1206 G. H. Smith 488-1200

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