

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: May 12, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-III-80-88

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 as of this date.

FACILITY: The Methodist Medical Center of Illinois
Peoria, Illinois
License No. J2-03567-02

SUBJECT: LOST Ir-192 SEEDS

Region III (Chicago) was informed that the licensee could not locate five 0.5-0.6 millicurie Ir-192 implant seeds.

The seeds were part of a set of 70 seeds removed from a patient on Thursday evening. When they were counted at 10:30 a.m. on Friday morning, five were missing.

The patient and his room were resurveyed after the loss was discovered and no seeds found. No linen or trash had been removed from the room since Thursday evening and the room had not been cleaned.

The licensee surveyed the hospital with a GVC-700 GM meter all day Friday. On Saturday and Sunday surveys were continued using a scintillation probe borrowed from the State of Illinois.

The licensee surveyed the entire hospital including the immediate area outside the hospital, the trash compactor, the landfill receiving hospital waste and the home of the physician who removed the seeds from the patient. No seeds were located.

Region III notified the State of Illinois on Friday evening. Region III will issue a press release if the licensee does not in order to alert the public, since the seeds may now be in the public domain.

A Region III inspector has been dispatched to the site.

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Region III received initial notification of this incident at 4:40 p.m. CDT on Friday, May 9, 1980 by telephone from the licensee's Radiation Safety Officer. Telephonic contact has been maintained through the weekend with the licensee. The Headquarters Duty Officer was informed at 5:05 p.m. CDT on Friday, May 9, 1980.

This information is current as of 9:30 p.m. CDT on Sunday, May 11, 1980.

Contact: G. J. Paperiello, RITT, 384-2511; A. B. Davis, RIII, 384-2510.

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