

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-89-67 Date October 20, 1989

BM

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: St. Louis University
1402 South Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63104

Licensee Emergency
Classification:
 Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

License No. 24-00196-07

Subject: ERROR IN THERAPEUTIC DOSE CALCULATION

On October 17, 1989, a 71-year-old female patient with uterine cancer underwent the first of three weekly brachytherapy treatments. The treatment involved the use of an iridium-192 sealed source.

The prescribed dose for each treatment was 600 rads, for a total of 1800 rads over the three-week period.

On October 18, the radiotherapy technologist told the prescribing physicist that the treatment time for the 600 rads on October 17 seemed longer than normal. The physicist recalculated the dose and determined that an error in the treatment time had been made. The patient had received 1200 rads rather than the prescribed 600 rads.

A revised treatment plan has now been formulated. The patient will receive only one more treatment of 600 rads. Thus, the final administered dose will still be 1800 rads.

The patient's attending physician was notified of the error. The licensee does not expect any significant clinical effect due to the error.

Region III (Chicago) will review the circumstances of the event during a future special inspection.

The State of Missouri was notified.

Region III was notified of this event at 5 p.m. (CDT), October 18, 1989. This information is current as of 11 a.m. (CDT), October 20, 1989.

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