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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

October 16, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-80-36

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: State of Montana

SUBJECT: THEFT AND POTENTIAL UNAUTHORIZED ADMINISTRATION OF ONE MILLICURIE OF IODINE-131

Mallinckrodt Chemical, St. Louis, Missouri reported that 10 vials of I-131, containing a total of 1 mci was shipped to Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital, Glasgow, Montana on September 24, 1980 by way of Billings, Montana. The cab driver, who picked up the package at the airport for delivery to C&N Transport quit his job and did not deliver the radioactive material to the carrier. It is speculated that the cab driver may have administered the I-131 to his girl friend who has leukemia. An administration of one mci of I-131 would not be medically significant and this quantity is occasionally given patients for diagnostic purposes.

The owner of the cab company notified the Billings Police Department of the theft on October 14, 1980, which fact was verified by Region IV on October 15, 1980. The Billings Police agreed to followup on the matter.

The State of Montana was notified by Region IV on October 15, 1980.

There has been no known publicity and Region IV has initiated an investigation of the incident.

Region IV received notification of the incident from Region III by telephone on October 15, 1980.

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