

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: 8/14/80

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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: St. Lawrence Hospital  
Lansing, Michigan  
License No. 21-15462-01

SUBJECT: MISADMINISTRATION OF THERAPEUTIC DOSE OF IODINE-131

At 9:15 a.m. on August 13, 1980, a therapeutic quantity (8.5 millicuries) of iodine-131, was administered orally to a 40 year old female patient instead of the prescribed diagnostic dose of 9 microcuries. This occurred as a result of human error. The technician discovered the misadministration at 11:00 a.m. on August 13, 1980 during the uptake measurement, but did not report it to the doctors until about 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., because she was frightened. The doctors then administered and have prescribed continued dosages of Lugol's solution, a concentrated stable iodine solution which will reduce the dose commitment to the patient.

Preliminary estimates by NRC, Region III, Chicago, indicate a dose of 17,000 rems to the thyroid and 30 rems to the whole body would result if no Lugol's solution were administered. Since the Lugol's solution was not administered as soon as it is normally done, because the misadministration was not immediately told to the doctors, its effectiveness will be diminished. Had it been administered properly the dose to the thyroid could have been reduced to about 6,000 rems.

The patient was released from the hospital after being informed of the misadministration. An internist has been contacted by the Hospital and is following the progress of the patient. A medical consultant from Michigan State University, under contract to the hospital, is performing the dose assessment.

Region III has initiated an investigation of this matter. An NRC Medical Consultant is being alerted and will assist in the evaluation of the medical aspects.

There has been no known media interest and neither the licensee nor Region III are planning to issue a press release at this time. Region III will respond to any inquiries from the media.

The State of Michigan Department of Public Health is being informed.

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NRC, Region III, was notified of this misadministration by the licensee at 9:00 a.m. on August 14, 1980. This information is current as of 10:30 a.m., August 14, 1980.

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