

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: December 16, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURENCE--PNO-III-80-231 Page 1 of 2

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: Mallinckrodt, Inc.
St. Louis, MO
License No. 24-04206-01

SUBJECT: REPORT ON LOST SHIPMENT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL:
3 CURIE TECHNETIUM GENERATOR

Region III (Chicago) was informed that a 3 Curie technetium generator was reported missing on December 7, 1980, by Mercury Delivery Service in Houston, Texas. The licensee "Line-Haul" vehicle, Associated Couriers, Inc., was to have transported the package from St. Louis, Missouri to Houston, Texas where Mercury Delivery Service was to pick it up and deliver it to the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Mercury Delivery Service received the paperwork but not the package.

The licensee contracts with two companies (carriers) that deliver to Illinois, New York, Florida and Texas. Typically at the multiple delivery points in each state a local carrier makes deliveries to local hospitals. The two companies and all local carriers have been contacted but the package has not been located.

No other customers of the licensee have reported receiving an extra package or generator. Also, the licensee has checked their receipts of returned generators and the lost unit has not been located.

The generator was packaged in a 16 x 16 x 16 inch box lined with styrafoam. The package was properly labeled. The surface of the package measured approximately 75 mR/hr. According to the licensee, as of 8:00 p.m. on December 15, 1980, the generator will contain a total of 240 millicuries of activity.

There is no significant hazard to the public unless the package is opened and the technetium generator is disassembled. Disassembling the generator would result in an external radiation hazard and an internal hazard if the material is ingested, which is unlikely.

There has been no media interest thus far and the licensee does not plan to make a press release. Region III will make a press release.



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The State of Missouri and RIV will be notified by Region III.

Region III received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the licensee at 3:50 p.m. (CST) on December 15, 1980. This information is current as of 9:20 a.m. on December 16, 1980.

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