

FEB 1 1993

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-93-02

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 IV staff on this date.

FACILITY: Porter Memorial Hospital  
Denver, Colorado  
(Agreement State License)

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

SUBJECT: SHIPMENT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS PACKAGE WITH EXCESSIVE SURFACE RADIATION LEVELS

The Region IV Duty Officer was notified on January 30, 1993, by the NRC Emergency Operations Center of a radioactive materials package that had been delivered with radiation levels that exceeded DOT requirements.

A package of radioactive iodine-125 seeds (60 millicuries) had been received at Porter Memorial Hospital, Denver, Colorado, with an external surface radiation level on the package of 300 millirem per hour (the DOT limit is 200 millirem per hour). The hospital RSO determined that a small lead pig containing the iodine-125 seeds was missing its top, thus leaving the seeds partially unshielded within the shipping container.

The shipper of the package was Amersham Corporation, Arlington Heights, Illinois. The Colorado Radiation Control Division was notified at 2:30 p.m. on January 30, 1993. The Division investigated the incident and is coordinating with the shipper and the hospital to determine the cause of the missing shield top. The State of Illinois is considering enforcement action with its licensee, Amersham Corporation.

Region IV will obtain copies of reports on this incident from the States of Colorado and Illinois, and from a consultant for Federal Express.

Neither the licensee nor Colorado plans to issue a press release.

Region IV has informed the NRC offices of NMSS and SP.

CONTACT: Robert J. Doda, (817)860-8139

RIV:SLO *[initials]* RA *[initials]*  
RJDoda:jc JLMilhoan  
~~1/2/93~~ 2/1/93  
2/1/93

9402230015 930201  
PDR I&E  
PNO-IV-93-002 PDR

*via Interstates + E-Mail*

1E34