

Date: April 11, 1994

*WJA*

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-94-22

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.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Veterans Affairs Medical Center	General Emergency
Hines, IL 60141	Site Area Emergency
	Alert
License No. 12-01087-07	Unusual Event
Docket No. 030-01391	X Not Applicable

Subject: RADIATION THERAPY ERROR

On April 8, 1994, the licensee informed Region III (Chicago) that an error had occurred during the radiation treatment of a patient using a Gamma Med II HDR unit and an iridium-192 sealed source. The patient was scheduled to receive a series of two treatments of 600 rads (6 gray) for a total dose of 1,200 rads (12 gray). Because of an error in the treatment parameters, the patient received 1,000 rads (10 gray) in the first treatment on April 7, 1994.

On April 6, 1994, during treatment planning, the licensee entered the wrong date into the HDR unit. The date, "4-6-94," was incorrectly entered as "6-4-94." The treatment time is based on the computed strength of the iridium-192 source. Since the iridium-192 source with a 74-day halflife would have a lower strength on 6-4-94, the HDR unit increased the calculated treatment time resulting in the greater than intended dose.

The licensee intends to modify the written directive for the treatment to compensate for the error. For the second treatment, the dose will be 200 rads (2 gray). Therefore, the patient will receive the intended total dose.

Region III will conduct a special inspection this week to evaluate the circumstances surrounding the error. An NRC medical consultant has also been contacted regarding the case.

The State of Illinois has been informed. (Illinois is an Agreement State but federal facilities remain under NRC jurisdiction.) The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

Region III was notified of this event on April 8, 1994. This information is current as of 1:00 p.m. on April 11, 1994.

CONTACT:

*gje*  
Thomas Young  
708/829-9835

*gje*  
Roy Caniano  
708/829-9804

9404180028 940411  
PDR I&E  
PNO-III-94-022 PDR

150025

*REC'D  
0/1*