

Date: December 14, 1993

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-93-68

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> |
|---|---|
| Bethesda Oak Hospital Cincinnati, Ohio | General Emergency Site Area Emergency Alert |
| License No.: 34-10921-03 | Unusual Event X Not Applicable |

Subject: POTENTIAL THERAPEUTIC MISADMINISTRATION

On December 8, 1993 at 5:15 p.m., four cesium-137 sources were implanted in the nasal pharynx of a patient undergoing treatment for cancer. This was the patient's fourth brachytherapy treatment, preceded by three treatments with iridium-192 in a high dose rate remote afterloading brachytherapy device. The total activity of the cesium-137 sources was 90 millicuries (3.3 GBq) with three sources containing 20 millicuries (0.7 GBq) each and one source containing 30 millicuries (1.1 GBq). The sources were contained in a plastic tube secured with tape. The final prescribed treatment time determined subsequent to implantation was 23.25 hours, which corresponds to a delivered dose of 1740 rads (17.4 Gy).

On December 9, 1993 at 4:30 p.m., the radiation oncologist explanted the sources and found one of the 20 millicurie (0.7 GBq) sources missing. The licensee initiated a search for the source and found it that same day at 6:00 p.m. in a trash dumpster located outside the hospital. The licensee is conducting interviews with hospital staff in an attempt to determine the time the source was dislodged and the circumstances leading to its location in the dumpster.

The licensee does not expect any adverse effects to the patient. The licensee is reviewing the matter and NRC regulations to determine if a misadministration occurred.

An NRC inspector from Region III will be onsite at the licensee's facility on December 15, 1993 to review this event and the licensee's investigation. NRC is considering the need for a medical consultant.

The State of Ohio has been notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

Region III was notified of this event by the licensee at 3:00 p.m. on December 10, 1993. This information is current as of 10:30 a.m. on December 14, 1993.

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