

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 staff on this date.

Facility: New England Nuclear Corporation
Boston, Massachusetts
Lic. No. 20-00320-19
30-13088

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

Subject: RADIOPHARMACEUTICAL SHIPMENT LOST IN TRANSIT

A shipment of 80 millicuries of xenon-133 and a 900 millicurie technicium 99-m generator was found on the road at the intersection of Illinois Route 53 and Interstate 90 by a passing motorist during the evening of October 24, 1982. He moved the package to the shoulder of the road and later telephoned the intended receiving hospital (Edward Hospital). The hospital informed Region III and Region III notified New England Nuclear (the supplier) and the Illinois State Police. Both parties started a search for the material. The shipment was recovered by the State Police at a somewhat different location than initially understood in the early afternoon of October 25, 1982, and was transferred to a State Police garage.

Region III Radiation Specialists performed radiation surveys, and found normal external radiation readings (maximum of 150 mR/hr on contact with the generator) with no loose contamination. The outer package had been opened, but the radioactive materials remained in their storage containers. There was no apparent radiation safety problem with the temporary loss of this material. The material has been returned to New England Nuclear.

This preliminary notification is being issued for information because of possible media interest. Neither the licensee nor Region III plan to issue a press release at this time.

The State of Illinois has been notified. The State has the responsibility for enforcing the applicable DOT requirements.

Region III received initial notification of this event by telephone from Edward Hospital on October 25, 1982. This information is current as of 11:30 a.m. (CST), October 26, 1982.

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