

DCS No: 03000452901221
Date: December 21, 1990

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURREN' E--PNO-I-90-107

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 I staff on this date.

Facility:
Polyclinic Medical Center
2601 North Third Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110
DN 030-00452

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

Subject: MALFUNCTION OF TELETHERAPY UNIT RESULTING IN NON-RETRACTION OF SOURCE

At 2:30 p.m. on December 21, 1990, the teletherapy physicist at the Polyclinic Medical Center Harrisburg, Pennsylvania informed Region I that the source of their teletherapy unit had been stuck in the "on" position at the end of treatment time of a patient's head and neck. The teletherapy unit is an Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) Theratron Model T80 containing a cobalt-60 sealed source used in the treatment of cancer by external beam therapy. The hospital stated that the cobalt-60 teletherapy source had not retracted. The technologist opened the door (which normally causes the source to retract) and returned to the control panel. By this time, the source had returned to the fully shielded position by this time.

The teletherapy physicist informed Region I that the actual treatment time exceeded the prescribed treatment time by 20 seconds. The treatment fraction prescribed was 90 rads. The patient received 150 rads. This was the 20th treatment fraction of a total of 28 fractions. The licensee determined that the additional dose would not result in any adverse health effects to the patient and was not reportable to the NRC. The licensee determined that exposure to licensee personnel was minimal.

The licensee is attempting to contact Theratronics, an authorized teletherapy service licensee, to repair the unit.

The licensee will provide NRC Region I with a report specifying the cause of the malfunction when it is determined. All treatments have been cancelled by the licensee until repairs and corrective actions are completed.

Region I will examine the circumstances of the malfunction during a future inspection.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was notified.

This information is current as of 4:00 p.m., December 21, 1990.

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Licensee: _____
(Reactor Licensees)

Region I Form 83
(Rev. April 1988)