

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: June 19, 1981

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-81-02

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance.

Facility: All Medical Licensees

Subject: POTENTIAL DISRUPTION OF SUPPLY OF RADIOPHARMACEUTICAL -  
POSSIBLE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLERS' STRIKE

Medical licensees use a wide variety of pharmaceuticals labeled with technetium-99m (Tc-99m) for diagnosis of patients. The majority of these licensees obtain the Tc-99m from a molybdenum-99/technetium-99m generator. An order effective June 18, 1981 was considered to be essential to provide relief for medical licensees. The order which affects approximately 2000 licensees reads as follows:

"Because of the possibility of an air traffic controllers' strike beginning on Monday, June 22, 1981, there is a potential for disruption of the supply of radiopharmaceuticals needed for medical diagnosis. Accordingly, the Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards has found, pursuant to 10 CFR 2.204 of the Commission's regulations, that the public health, safety or interest requires that this Order be made effective June 18, 1981.

In view of the foregoing and pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and the regulations in 10 CFR Parts 2, 30, and 35, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

Effective June 18, 1981, any license that authorizes possession and use of molybdenum-99/technetium-99m generators is amended to double the authorized possession limit for these generators, provided:

- a. the generators have been manufactured, packaged, labeled, and distributed in accordance with a specific license issued pursuant to Section 32.73 of 10 CFR Part 32 or by an Agreement State pursuant to equivalent State regulations, and
- b. the licensee reviews and modifies as appropriate its radiation protection program to ensure continued compliance with 10 CFR Part 20, "Standards for Radiation Protection", particularly with regard to exposure of personnel and shielding and storage of the generators.

This authorization expires July 6, 1981."

This Order will be mailed to all non-Agreement State medical licensees on June 19, 1981. In addition, a copy of the Order is sent to the four major distributors (NEN, Union Carbide, Mallinkrodt, Squibb) by facsimile.

Contact: P. Vacca, NMSS 427-4112

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