

DCS: 03017020/840808
Date: August 9, 1984

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-84-68

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 I staff on this date.

Facility: Bronx Veterans Administrative
Hospital
Bronx, New York
L/N 31-00636-07

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

Subject: POSSIBLE OVEREXPOSURE TO IODINE 125 IN EXCESS OF NRC LIMITS

Region I received notification on August 8, 1984 that during a routine bioassay on August 3, 1984 it was discovered that an individual working at the licensee's facility had a thyroid burden of approximately 500 microcuries of iodine 125. The individual had performed an iodination using seven millicuries of I-125 on July 29, 1984. An investigation by the licensee Radiation Safety Officer revealed that the individual used poor technique during the iodination and that two associates of the individual had thyroid burdens of approximately 150 nanocuries and 80 nanocuries, respectively, apparently as a result of contamination spread by the individual. The licensee's investigation is continuing. A thyroid burden of 500 microcuries of I-125 would result from an exposure approximately 500 times the limit in 10 CFR 20.103.

The individual is under medical supervision and receiving thyroid and urine bioassays daily. Region I inspectors will begin an inspection to review the exposure on August 9, 1984. The State of New York has been notified.

Region I plans to issue a press release because of the magnitude of the uptake.

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