

December 10, 1998

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-98-061

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 Region I staff in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania on this date.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Hartford Hospital	Notification of Unusual Event
Hartford Hospital	Alert
80 Seymour Street	Site Area Emergency
Hartford, Connecticut 06115	General Emergency
Dockets: 03001239 License No: 0600253-04	X Not Applicable

Subject: RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL FOUND AT AN INCINERATOR

About 12:30 p.m. on December 10, 1998, a representative from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) notified the NRC Region I staff that radioactive material had been detected at an incinerator facility, Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority, in Hartford, CT, in a dumpster. Personnel at the incinerator notified CTDEP at 3:45 p.m. on December 9, 1998, that waste in a dumpster from Hartford Hospital had tripped their radiation monitors. Radiation dose rate at the surface of the dumpster was measured by CTDEP staff to be about 20 milliroentgen per hour (mR/hr). CTDEP personnel responded on December 9 and 10, 1998, and determined that the radioactive waste was localized in a small area within the dumpster and identified the radioactive material as iodine-131. The dumpster is currently on the premises of the hauler, McCauley Trucking of Hartford, CT.

Region I contacted the licensee on December 10, 1998. The licensee stated that the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) had visited the hauler's premises at 8:30 a.m. on December 10, 1998, and verified the presence of radioactive material in the dumpster. The licensee will segregate the waste from the dumpster and bring the radioactive material back to the licensee's facility.

The State of Connecticut initially identified the incident.

The Region I Office of Public Affairs is available to respond to media inquiries.

Region I will continue to monitor the licensee's actions relevant to the retrieval of the radioactive material.

All information is current as of 2:00 p.m. on December 10, 1998.

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