

Date: June 5, 1987

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-87-51

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: Buffalo General Hospital
100 High Street
Buffalo, New York 14203
Agreement State Licensee

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

Subject: Ineffective Response and Resulting Contamination Following the Death of a Patient Treated with 200 millicuries of Iodine 131

The State of New York notified the Office of Governmental and Public Affairs on June 4, 1987, of a contamination incident and possible personnel exposure resulting from the death of a patient treated with 200 millicuries of iodine 131. Follow-up contact with the State of New York was made by Region I on June 5, 1987.

An 87 year old female patient treated with 200 millicuries of iodine 131 on June 2, 1987, died at approximately 7:30 p.m. on June 3, 1987. The State of New York was notified by the licensee when a request was made to borrow appropriate survey equipment on June 4, 1987. Inspectors were dispatched by the State and preliminary results indicated a lack of management control which resulted in staff confusion and apprehension, facility contamination and personnel contamination. The State of New York is continuing with their inspection and has ordered the Radiation Safety Officer at the hospital to perform thyroid uptake studies on all personnel involved in the care of the patient and in the team who responded to her cardiac arrest.

The State of New York anticipates media attention.

Region I will maintain contact with the State of New York. This information is current as of 11:00 a.m., June 5, 1987.

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 488-1246 488-1260

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