

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: March 13, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-III- 80-46

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff as of this date.

FACILITY: St. Joseph's Hospital
Milwaukee, WI
License No. 48-00537-04

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE 5.2 REM WHOLE BODY EXPOSURE

Region III (Chicago) received notification that an employee working in the hospital's radiation therapy department with a Co-60 teletherapy unit and an electron accelerator had a whole body badge report of 5.2 rems for the period of January 10, 1980 through February 10, 1980. The skin exposure value was 8 rems.

The licensee does not think the exposure actually occurred to the individual but somehow the badge was dropped on the floor of the acceleration room and left while the machine was turned on and later picked up. A similar occurrence might have occurred in the Co-60 room. The licensee will conduct a formal review of the occurrence and will make the required 30-day report.

The State of Wisconsin has been notified. Neither the NRC nor the licensee plans a press release.

Region III received notification of this incident at 10:00 a.m. CST on March 13, 1980 from the licensee's Radiation Safety Officer. Region III plans an investigation of this incident.

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