

December 23, 2003

***THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 12/25/03.***

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-053**

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 IV staff on this date.

**Facility**

Arkansas Radiation Therapy Institute, Inc.  
Conway, Arkansas  
License No.: AR-12-03-01  
Arkansas Agreement State Licensee

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

☐ Notification of Unusual Event  
☐ Alert  
☐ Site Area Emergency  
☐ General Emergency  
☒ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: Iodine-125 Permanent Seed Implant Medical Misadministration

DESCRIPTION:

On December 22, 2003, the Arkansas Department of Health (the State) notified NRC's Operations Center of a reported medical misadministration involving an iodine-125 permanent seed implant for the treatment of prostate cancer. The event is a medical misadministration based on Arkansas' current regulations for the medical use of radioactive material.

Central Arkansas Radiation Therapy Institute, an Arkansas licensee, reported the misadministration to the State on December 19, 2003. The licensee reported that the patient was intended to receive 122 iodine-125 seeds, 13.3 megabequerel (.36 millicurie) each, in the prostate. The prostate seed implant was performed on December 4, 2003. During the patient's post-implant CT on December 18, 2003, the licensee discovered that the seeds had been implanted too low and missed treating the upper portion of the prostate gland. The licensee has not estimated the actual dose to the prostate. However, the licensee does not expect any adverse side effects. The patient and the referring physician have been notified. The licensee plans to complete the treatment in January 2004. The event is still under investigation by the licensee and the State.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by facsimile from the State on December 22, 2003. Region IV has informed OSTP, NMSS, OEDO and the Region's PAO and SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 9:30 a.m. (CST) on December 23, 2003.

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