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**Community Hospitals Indianapolis**

Community Hospital East

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November 19, 1998

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D.C. 20555

13-06009-01

Dear Sir:

As required by 10 CFR 20.2201(b) this is a written report concerning the loss of licensed material. This loss was reported by telephone to both the Region III office and the NRC Operations Center on 11/4/98.

Three Iodine-125 encapsulated seeds were lost. The average activity per seed was 0.376 mCi.

The loss of the seeds was discovered on 11/4/98. Eight I-125 seeds were held as extra in a sterile steel container on the preparation table in the Operating Room during a prostate brachytherapy procedure. At the end of the procedure, the seeds should have been transferred to a lead pig for transport to the Radiation Oncology Hot Lab for decay-in-storage. The individual assisting in the procedure forgot to do so. The seeds were undetectable by GM survey in the closed container and were not discovered during the room survey at the end of the procedure. The procedure was completed about 2:30 PM.

During the OR clean-up the closed container with the seeds was taken to the OR cleaning room and placed on a table. The OR technician placed the closed container into soapy water in a wash sink. The OR technician stated that he did not open the container before placing it in the cleaning solution. The technician washed the container and several other pieces of equipment, then drained the sink. It is estimated that the radiation dose to the technician's hands was about 33 mrad. Exposure to any other member of the general public was deemed minimal.

The individual who had assisted in the procedure on 11/3/98 remembered the extra seeds at about 8:00 AM on 11/4/98. He immediately went to the surgery area to search for the seeds. Five seeds were recovered from the area of the sink drain. The sink trap was opened and all accessible pipe was surveyed. No other seeds were located by GM survey of the prep room, OR and halls. It is assumed that the missing seeds went down the drain.

Section IV. Radiation survey (after implant) section of the Treatment Record of Ultrasound-guided Prostate Seed Implant form has been modified to include the following item: "Extra seeds returned to transport pig: \_\_\_\_\_".

Sincerely,

Andrea D. Browne, Ph.D.

Radiation Safety Officer

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