

Date: December 1, 1992

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN19272

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:

Oncology Services Corporation (OSC)  
775 South Arlington Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17109

## Licensee Emergency Classification:

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

Site: Indiana Regional Cancer Center  
877 Hospital Road  
Indiana, PA

Docket No.: 030-31765  
License No.: 37-28540-01  
Event No.:  
Event Location Code:

Subject: LOST SOURCE/POSSIBLE THERAPY MISADMINISTRATION

Licensee's medical physics consultant (physicist) informed NRC Region I at approximately 12:30 p.m. on December 1, 1992, that a 3.7 curie, iridium-192 sealed source was missing from the licensee's high dose rate remote afterloading (HDR) brachytherapy device located at their Indiana, PA facility and the source was believed to be in the possession of BFI's Carnegie, PA site. BFI is a non-radioactive waste removal company. The physicist stated that BFI had contacted the licensee to determine whether waste picked up in the general vicinity of the licensee's Indiana, PA site, may have originated at OSC's facility. Waste picked up in the area set off the alarm on BFI's radiation monitor when the trash truck returned to BFI's facility. The physicist determined by the use of an x-ray film and a radiological survey that the iridium-192 source was missing from the HDR brachytherapy device as no radiation levels were detected by either survey method.

In a subsequent telephone conversation, the licensee's authorized physician user informed Region I that he had last used the HDR brachytherapy device on November 18, 1992 to treat a 82 year old female patient from the Scenery Nursing Home (located approximately 10 miles from licensee's Indiana, PA site). The patient returned to the nursing home via ambulance after treatment on November 18, 1992. The physician stated that the patient subsequently expired on November 20, 1992 from complications not related to her radiation treatments.

Region I was informed at 3:30 p.m. that the licensee had recovered the iridium-192 source from the BFI facility. The licensee will conduct a full investigation to determine how the source was lost. Region I is dispatching an inspection team to review the licensee's actions in this matter and NMSS is dispatching a special investigation team to determine any generic issues. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been notified of this event. Region I is prepared to respond to media inquiries.

This information is current as of 4:15 p.m., December 1, 1992.

CONTACT: J. Johansen S. Sharikman  
215 337-5304 215 337-5283

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Region I Form 83  
(Rev. November 1992)