

Date: December 2, 1992

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN19272A

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
Harrisburgh, 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.: NONE
Event Location Code: MAT

Subject: UPDATE LOST SOURCE/POSSIBLE THERAPY MISADMINISTRATION

Region I's Senior Inspector at OSC's Indiana, Pa site was informed of the following by the licensee's representative: The patient was treated for cancer using a high dose rate afterloading (HDR) brachytherapy device on November 16, 1992. During this treatment the 3.7 curie iridium-192 sealed source apparently was broken off from the end of the drive cable and remained in one of the catheters implanted in the patient. Five catheters were originally implanted in the patient and one was removed at OSC's Indiana, PA facility. Four catheters, one of which contained the source and approximately 14 millimeters of cable, were left in the patient who was returned to the Scenery Hill Nursing Home by ambulance. On November 20, 1992, nursing home personnel removed one loose catheter from the patient after consultation with licensee's authorized physician user. This catheter was placed in a red hazardous waste bag which was, at about 3:30 p.m. that day, placed in the locked hazardous waste storage shed located behind the nursing home. The licensee has determined that this catheter contained the iridium-192 source based on its recovery of the source yesterday, December 1, 1992.

Region I was informed by discussions with representatives of BFI, the waste removal company, that the waste was picked up from the Scenery Hill Nursing Home on November 27, 1992. The waste was then transferred to its Carnegie, PA site and then to BFI's Warren, Ohio facility, where the alarm of the radiation monitor on the loading dock was set off. BFI immediately checked the loading dock to ascertain if there were radiation sources in the area. Finding no radiation levels in the loading dock area BFI personnel proceeded to survey the trailer from the BFI Carnegie, PA site and measured, with a Ludlum Model 9A microR radiation survey instrument, radiation levels in excess of 0.5 millirem per hour at approximately 350-400 feet from the trailer which was parked on the back lot of the Warren, Ohio facility. BFI returned the trailer along with its untouched contents to its Carnegie, PA facility in order to determine the origin of the radioactive material in the trailer. BFI's safety personnel isolated the box containing the source of radiation from the trailer and through discussions with the nursing home were able to contact the licensee's Indiana facility on December 1, 1992.

9212080039 921202
PDR I&E
PNO-I-92-072A PDR

2534

The licensee removed the source from the cardboard box and placed it in an approved DOT shielded shipping container and returned the source and the cardboard box with its associated non-radioactive wastes to its Indiana, PA facility on December 1, 1992. The source is secured at the licensee's Indiana, PA facility.

The State of Ohio has also been notified. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has personnel observing the NRC inspectors at the Indiana, PA site.

The NRC will establish an Incident Investigation Team (IIT) to investigate this event.

This information is current as of 1:15 p.m., December 2, 1992.

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

DISTRIBUTION:

<u>OWEN</u>	<u>MNBB</u>	<u>L-St.</u>	<u>NL</u>	Mail:	ADM:DMB
Chairman Selin	AEOD**	PDR	RES		DOT:Trans only**
Comm. Rogers	IRM				
Comm. Curtiss	OIG**				NRC Ops Ctr** <u>5:50</u>
Comm. Remick					
Comm. Planque					INPO** <u>5:55</u>
OCAA					NSAC** <u>6:10</u>
OIP					

OCA	EDO	<u>Phillips</u>
OGC	NMSS	ACRS**
OPA	NRR** (Phone Verif: A. Byrdcong 964-1168 or 964-1166)	
	OE	
	OSP	Regional Offices _____ RI Resident Office _____

EWV
OIG

Licensee: _____
(Reactor Licensees)

** General list for sending PN's by FAX