

December 3, 1985

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-85-113

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 II staff on this date.

FACILITY: Bryan W. Whitfield Memorial Hospital  
(Agreement State Licensee)  
Demopolis, Alabama

Licensee Emergency Classification:  
\_\_\_\_ Notification of Unusual Event  
\_\_\_\_ Alert  
\_\_\_\_ Site Area Emergency  
\_\_\_\_ General Emergency  
X Not Applicable

SUBJECT: INADVERTENT INCINERATION OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

The State of Alabama, an agreement state, has notified Region II that one of its licensees, Bryan W. Whitfield Memorial Hospital, Demopolis, Alabama, has inadvertently incinerated a molybdenum-99/technetium-99m generator containing about 300 millicuries of activity.

Hospital officials have shut down the incinerator--ordinarily used for disposal of non-radioactive material--and have restricted the area. Radiation levels of 12 milliroentgens per hour were reported at the incinerator door. No contamination spread has been reported.

The state has dispatched a health physicist to the hospital.

Alabama authorities are prepared to respond to media inquiries.

This information is current as of 11:30 a.m. (EST) today.

Contact: R. L. Woodruff, 242-5553

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Regions: \_\_\_\_\_  
Licensee: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Reactor Licensees)  
Applicable Resident Site

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