

FDA Orders Nebraska to Return Supply of Thiopental
OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - Federal authorities have ordered Nebraska to turn over its supply of a lethal injection drug.

Both the Nebraska Department of Corrections and the Nebraska Attorney General's office confirmed Wednesday that they had recently received letters from the federal Food and Drug Administration requesting the drug, sodium thiopental, be turned over to federal authorities.

Neither spokeswomen for the corrections department nor the attorney general's office could say whether the state planned to turn over its supply of the drug, which the state obtained from a foreign supplier.

The order follows a federal judge's ruling late last month that the FDA wrongly allowed other states to import the drug. The judge also ordered the FDA to immediately notify any state correctional departments with foreign-manufactured thiopental to turn it over to the FDA.

Michael Ryan who was sentenced to death for his role in murders on a farm north of Rulo in the mid-80's, has appealed to have his sentence changed from a death sentence to life in prison, had his March execution date stayed due to the controversy over the use of Thiopental in the execution procedure.

Associated Press