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## Alabama Hands Over Execution Drug to Federal Authorities

By **NATHAN KOPPEL**

Alabama said Tuesday that it turned over its supplies of a drug used in executions to the Drug Enforcement Administration, becoming the latest state to face setbacks due to a nationwide shortage of the drug.

Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky earlier relinquished their supplies of thiopental, used with other drugs to carry out lethal injections, amid claims from attorneys for death-row inmates that states acquired the drug in violation of federal import laws.

A yearlong shortage of thiopental has delayed executions and prompted states to acquire foreign-made batches of the drug.

Alabama also announced that due to the thiopental shortage it would now allow the use of the sedative pentobarbital, a drug used in animal euthanasia, for future executions.

Alabama obtained a small amount of thiopental from Tennessee, but Alabama later "willingly" turned over that drug supply after it was contacted by the DEA, an Alabama prison spokesman said in a statement. The state didn't disclose when it handed over the drug or elaborate on the DEA's concerns.

Alabama will "cooperate fully with federal authorities," the statement said. The Justice Department couldn't be reached for comment.

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