

October 22, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-01-035

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 III staff on this date.

**Facility**

Bowser-Morner, Inc.  
Toledo, Ohio  
(Agreement State Licensee)  
License: 31210-58-0003

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN MOISTURE-DENSITY GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On October 22, 2001, the Ohio Department of Health's Bureau of Radiation Protection reported a Troxler 3430 (serial no. 31270) moisture-density gauge was stolen from the back of a truck between the evening of October 20 and the morning of October 22, in Toledo, Ohio. The gauge was chained to the truck bed at an employee's residence. The licensee reported that the handle of the gauge transport case had been pried off, leaving the handle and locked chain.

The gauge contained sealed sources of approximately 7.7 millicuries (0.28 gigabecquerels) cesium-137 and about 38.9 millicuries (1.44 gigabecquerels) americium-241/beryllium.

The licensee reported the theft to Toledo and Oregon, Ohio police departments. The NRC's Incident Assessment Team, Office of State and Tribal Programs and Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards have been notified. The NRC's Operations Center was notified of the stolen gauge at 11:02 a.m. CDT, October 22, 2001. This information is current as of 2:00 p.m. CDT, October 22, 2001.

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