

This Event is not for public disclosure per Agreement State request until 10/11/02

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-02-041

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

Harry W. Kuhn, Inc.
West Chicago, Illinois
License: IL-01870-01
(Agreement State licensee)

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: LOST MOISTURE-DENSITY GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On October 9, 2002, the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) notified the NRC Region III (Chicago) Office that a Troxler 3440 (Serial No. 24468) moisture-density gauge containing 8 millicuries of cesium-137 and 40 millicuries of americium-241, was lost from the bed of a pickup truck during transportation on October 8th.

The licensee reported that a worker picked up the gauge at the licensee office in West Chicago and then realized the need to return to his residence in Naperville, Illinois before returning to the office. When he returned to the office, the worker identified that the gauge was no longer in the pickup truck and presumed that it fell out between the office and his residence. The worker reported that the chain and lock used to secure gauges in the truck were lost the previous day.

The licensee and IDNS retraced the route twice and did not find the gauge. The licensee notified police departments in West Chicago, Naperville and Warrenville of the loss. IDNS is continuing its investigation into the loss.

The NRC's 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. This information is current as of 2:00 p.m. CDT on October 9, 2002.

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