

March 26, 1997

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO III 97-028

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 Region III staff (Lisle, Illinois) on this date.

|                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Facility                          | Licensee Emergency Classification |
| PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC. (PSI) | Notification of Unusual Event     |
| Professional Services, Inc. (Psi) | Alert                             |
| Lombard, Illinois                 | Site Area Emergency               |
| License No. 12-16941-01           | General Emergency                 |
|                                   | X Not Applicable                  |

Subject: MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE MISSING DURING TRANSPORT

On March 7, 1997, a Troxler Model 3216 (Serial No. 124) roofing moisture gauge containing 40 millicuries (1.48 GBq) of americium-241/beryllium sealed source was picked up by Airborne Express from the licensee's St. Louis, Missouri office for shipment to the licensee's office in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. According to the licensee's Corporate Radiation Safety Officer (CRSO), the gauge was packaged in a locked transport case and proper shipping documents accompanied the package.

On March 11, 1997, the CRSO was notified that the package had not arrived. Tracking by the CRSO and Airborne Express (Airborne) revealed that the package had been sent to the Airborne hazardous material hub in Willmington, Ohio, and had arrived without shipping documents. Additional shipping documents were subsequently sent to the Willmington, Ohio hub so that the gauge could be sent to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The licensee was notified on March 17, 1997, that the package had still not arrived. On March 19, 1997, the CRSO was informed by Airborne that the package was again lost and that Airborne was tracking its whereabouts.

The CRSO subsequently notified the NRC on March 20, 1997, of the event. On March 24, 1997, the licensee informed the NRC that Airborne Express, Seattle, WA will conduct a physical search in addition to other tracking to locate the device.

Since the device was apparently lost by the freight forwarder, this matter was referred to the NRC Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) for forwarding to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

NRC Region III (Chicago) will continue to monitor licensee/Airborne device location efforts.

NMSS and the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety have been notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

This information is current as of 2:15 p.m. on March 25, 1997.

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