

July 21, 1999

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-99-036

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
Professional Service Industries
Lima, Ohio
License No: 34-26160-01

Licensee Emergency Classification
Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
X Not Applicable

Subject: STOLEN MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE

On July 20, 1999, a Professional Service Industries employee discovered that a moisture density gauge had been stolen from a company-owned pickup truck parked at his home in Lima, Ohio. The gauge, containing a 8-millicurie (0.3 GBq) cesium 137 sealed source and a 40-millicurie (1.48 GBq) americium-241 sealed source, was taken from a locked storage case which was also chained to the back rear of the truck. The sources were locked in the shielded position. The sources do not represent a significant radiation hazard when secured in the shielded position.

The licensee has reported the theft to the state and local police.

Region III (Chicago) is monitoring the licensee's efforts to recover the stolen gauge.

The State of Ohio and the NRC Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards have been informed. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with the licensee.

The theft was reported to the NRC Operations Center at approximately 9:58 a.m. (EDT) on July 20, 1999. This information is current as of 4:45 p.m. (ET) on July 20, 1999.

Contact: George Parker
(630)829-9869

Geoff Wright
(630)829-9602

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PDR I&E
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