



EST. 1880

# UNITED STATES TESTING COMPANY, INC.

1415 PARK AVENUE, HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY 07030 (201) 792-2400

Laboratories in Principal Cities

December 18, 1980

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region I  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement  
631 Park Avenue  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Subject: Written Report of Theft of Licensed Material  
NRC License No. 37-15445-02

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the requirements of 10CFR20.402, we are submitting this report of the theft of licensed material.

The material involved was approximately 55 curies of Iridium 192, special form, contained in a T/O 533 exposure device, which in turn, was contained in a T/O 715 shipping container.

On Tuesday morning, November 25, 1980, a pick-up truck containing the above was discovered stolen from our Non-Destructive Testing Division located at 430 Little Clinton Street, Reading, Pennsylvania. Immediate notification to Region I and local authorities was made.

Apparently, the isotope was inadvertently taken as part of a break-in and robbery which involved electric typewriters, electronic calculators and ultrasonic non-destructive testing equipment. The T/O 715 overpack was chained to the bed of a pickup truck used by the thieves to transport the stolen goods.

As the result of a well organized search by state and local authorities, the truck, the isotope, and most of all of the stolen articles were recovered, and two suspects apprehended at approximately 1:30 PM the same day, November 25.

Examination of the T/O 715 overpack by Testing Company personnel after its recovery revealed no evidence of tampering with the container. We therefore conclude that no radiation exposure to individuals occurred as the result of the incident.

Measures taken to prevent recurrence of incidents of this nature include:

1. Installation of a more secure front entry to the office area, which had been the location of the break-in.
2. Instructions to Radiographers that whatever the hour of return to the facility and irrespective of the possibility that the source may be required for Field Exposures the following day, sources are to be removed from the vehicle and stored in the locked storage areas as indicated in our NRC License documents.

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It is our position, that despite the extraordinary circumstances involved in this incident, consisting of physical assault to locked premises, that no violation of the requirements of 10CFR 34.22 or 10CFR34.23 has occurred.

Very truly yours,

UNITED STATES TESTING COMPANY, INC.

Carl B. Yoder, P. E.  
Radiation Safety Officer

cc: Director of Inspection & Enforcement  
USNRC-Washington DC 20555

CBY/lh