

DCB

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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-89-79 Date December 6, 1989

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: Omni-Source Corporation	Licensee Emergency
1610 N. Calhoun Street	Classification:
Ft. Wayne, IN 46808	Unusual Event
	<input type="checkbox"/> Alert
Non-Licensee	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

Subject: UNIDENTIFIED RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL FOUND

On December 4, 1989, an employee of Omni-Source Corporation, a scrap dealer, found several one-inch square plastic cubes containing radiation warning signs at the facility.

Inspectors from Region III (Chicago) and the State of Indiana were dispatched to the site. A total of seven cubes were eventually found, including those located by the scrap dealer.

The isotope and activity of the cubes has not been determined. The NRC inspector's radiation survey measured 50 millirem/hour on the surface of one cube.

The seven cubes were placed in double plastic bags and stored in a roped off and placarded area inside a garage at the site.

On December 6, another NRC inspector was sent to the site with more sensitive instrumentation. The inspector will attempt to determine the type of radiation in the cubes, and determine whether or not there is any leakage from the cubes. Two of the cubes will be shipped to Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois for analysis.

The scrap dealer received the cubes from a private home about two weeks ago. The homeowner told Region III that he had purchased the cubes in mid-July, 1988, at a private auction, with other items he believed were surplus from Fort McClellan Army Base in Alabama. He said he wasn't aware the devices were radioactive and assumed the labelling was for training purposes.

Telephone contact with Army representatives did not provide any more information on the identity of the devices. Inquiries are continuing.

Each cube is olive in color, except for one side, which is translucent with a white circle on the surface.

Region III is continuing to investigate this matter. The State of Indiana will be notified of further developments.

The scrap dealer notified Region III of this event at about 2 p.m. (CST), December 4, 1989. This information is current as of 3:30 p.m. (CST), December 6, 1989.

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