

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-90-93

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 I staff on this date.

Facility:  
Golder Associates, Inc.  
20000 Horizon Way, Suite 500  
Mount Laurel, New Jersey 08054  
License No. 29-27951-01

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

Subject: DAMAGED MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE

At 3:50 p.m. on October 15, 1990, NRC Region I was notified by Golder Associates, Inc. that at approximately 1:30 p.m., a pickup truck backed over their nuclear density gauge being used at the Arden Landfill, Arden, Pennsylvania, approximately 28 miles southwest of Pittsburgh. Although the source was already in the retracted, shielded position, the source rod handle of the gauge was bent. The licensee cordoned off the area to a distance of 30 feet, notified personnel in the area of the potential hazard, and posted security. The licensee possesses no survey meter at the site. The NRC contacted the Department of Environmental Resources of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, who agreed to dispatch an inspector to the site. The nuclear density gauge was a Troxler Model 3440 containing not more than 10 millicuries of cesium 137 and 50 millicuries of americium 241.

The licensee returned the gauge to its shipping case and will keep the area of the accident cordoned off until a confirmatory survey is performed Tuesday morning by the Commonwealth inspector. The licensee also agreed to contact Troxler Electronic Laboratories for shipping instructions.

This notification is current as of 9:00 a.m. on October 16, 1990.

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Region I Form 83  
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