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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-94-12 *USA*

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.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Alt & Witzig Engineering, Inc	General Emergency
Indianapolis, IN	Site Area Emergency
	Alert
	Unusual Event
License No. 13-18685-01	X Not Applicable

Subject: STOLEN MOISTURE-DENSITY GAUGE

On March 1, 1994 at 9:45 a.m., the licensee informed NRC Region III (Chicago) that a moisture-density gauge, manufactured by Campbell Pacific Nuclear Corporation, had been stolen from inside a locked pickup truck. The pickup truck was parked inside a locked fenced area on the company site. The moisture-density gauge was stored in a locked shipping container that was chained and locked to the steering wheel of the truck. The gauge was discovered missing at 7:00 a.m. on March 1, 1994.

The gauge contains a nominal 10 millicurie cesium-137 sealed source and a 50 millicurie americium-241 sealed source. The sealed radioactive sources were located in the shielded position inside the moisture-density gauge at the time of the theft. In the shielded position, the radioactive materials do not present a significant radiation hazard. Maximum radiation levels at the gauge surface range from 12-15 mR/hr (3.0 - 3.75 micro coulombs per kilogram per hour). With the gauge stored in the shipping container, the maximum radiation level at the surface of the shipping container is 6 mR/hr (1.5 micro coulombs per kilogram per hour).

The licensee notified the local police department which conducted an investigation of the theft. The licensee also notified the media and is offering a \$500 reward for return of the gauge.

The State of Indiana has been notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

Region III (Chicago) will review the circumstances surrounding the theft during a future inspection.

This information is current as of 12:30 p.m. on March 2, 1994.

CONTACT:
[Signature]
B.J. Holt
708/829-9836

[Signature]
R.J. Caniano
708/829-9804

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