

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION -- NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

January 16, 1976

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE --PNO-76-07

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by OIE staff as of 5:00 P.M. on date of this notification. IT SHOULD BE SPECIFICALLY NOTED THAT THIS NOTIFICATION MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT LATER MAY BE DETERMINED TO BE INACCURATE OR INCONSISTENT. AN OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT NOTIFICATION OF AN INCIDENT OR OCCURRENCE (BLUE SHEET) SUBSEQUENTLY WILL BE ISSUED IF WARRANTED.

Facility: Martin Marietta Cement, Midwest Division, Davenport, Iowa,  
License No. 14-15959-1

Subject: POSSIBLE LOSS OF A LEVEL GAUGE CONTAINING 500 MILLICURIES OF  
CESIUM-137

Martin-Marietta Cement Midwest Division of Davenport, Iowa, notified Region III (Chicago) of the possible loss of a level gauge containing 500 millicuries of cesium-137. In late October 1975, the gauge had been removed from a kiln which was temporarily out of service for maintenance purposes. The gauge was reported to be locked in a safe condition at that time. The licensee reported the gauge could not be located on January 2, 1976, and that a search was in progress.

Region III (Chicago) dispatched an investigator and a radiation specialist to licensee's facility on January 5, 1976, to review search efforts. Information obtained at the site appeared to substantiate the licensee's contention that there was a good possibility the source is still located somewhere on the licensee's 738-acre plant site. The gauge was last observed by a licensee's employee during the week of December 17, 1975. The search has been continued since January 3, 1976 until January 16, 1976 as the weather permitted, by the licensee using: visual methods (sifting waste material), radiation surveys of waste areas and metal detection instrumentation. Efforts to locate the gauge have been unsuccessful, however, it is the licensee's contention that the gauge is probably still located on their premises. On January 16, 1976, the licensee informed Region III he plans to suspend his active search efforts and has concluded the source is lost. Region III (Chicago) informed the State of Iowa's Department of Environmental Quality of the reported possible loss on January 5, 1976.

Continued

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The licensee has made no news release as of January 16, 1976. Region III Plans to make a news release on January 16, 1976.

Region III's Duty Officer was first notified of this occurrence by the licensee by telephone on January 3, 1976, at approximately 1610 hours and notification of the suspension of active search efforts was received by Region III January 16, 1976.

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Transmitted: P Bldg 9:40am; H St 9:55am; MNBB 10am; Luge mai