

December 14, 1999

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE  
PNO-III-99-053

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 Region III staff (Lisle, Illinois) on this date.

Facility	Licensee Emergency Classification
H.C. Nutting Company	Notification of Unusual Event
Cincinnati, Ohio	Alert
License No: 03121310024	Site Area Emergency
	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: Stolen Portable Moisture/Density Gauge

On December 14, 1999, the H. C. Nutting Company reported to the Ohio Department of Health and the NRC Operations Center that a portable gauge was stolen from a locked vehicle at an employee's residence during the evening of December 13 or the morning of December 14, 1999.

The gauge is a Troxler 3430 moisture/density gauge (serial number 28862) containing an 8 millicurie (296 megabecquerel) cesium-137 sealed source and a 40 millicurie (1,480 megabecquerel) americium-241 sealed source.

The licensee reported that the gauge was stored in its approved transportation case and locked in the vehicle. On the morning of December 14, 1999, the employee discovered that the vehicle had been broken into and that the gauge and personal possessions were stolen. The licensee notified the local police department. The licensee plans to notify the local media of the stolen gauge. The Ohio Department of Health will monitor the licensee's efforts to recover the gauge.

Region III (Chicago) notified the NRC Information Assessment Team, the NRC Office of State Programs and the NRC Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards.

The theft was reported to the NRC Operations Center at approximately 1:08p.m. (EST) on December 14, 1999. This information is current as of 2:00p.m. (CST) on December 14, 1999.

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