

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 staff on this date. DMB

Facility: John Mathes & Assoc.  
Columbia, IL

License No: 12-18760-01

30-14139

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

Subject: STOLEN MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE

On August 6, 1985, the licensee reported the theft of a Troxler moisture/density gauge containing 10 millicuries of cesium-137 and 40 millicuries of americium-241. The gauge was stolen from a locked construction trailer at a construction site in Mundelein, Illinois.

The cesium-americium sources are locked in the gauge. Radiation levels at the surface of the gauge measure 12 millirem per hour. If the gauge is tampered with and the sources removed, a person could receive a significant radiation dose (approximately 40 rems per hour) if held close to the body for an extended period of time.

The licensee has reported the theft to the Mundelein Police Department. The licensee also plans to notify local news media of the missing gauge and to offer a reward for its return.

Region III (Chicago) has dispatched an inspector to review the circumstances of the theft.

The State of Illinois will be notified.

Region III was notified of this theft by the licensee and by the Mundelein Police Department at 8:30 a.m., August 6, 1985. This information is current as of that time.

CONTACT: D. Wiedeman  
FTS 388-5616

W. Axelson *W. Axelson*  
FTS 388-5612

# DISTRIBUTION:

H. St. 10:33  
Chairman Palladino  
Comm. Roberts  
Comm. Asselstine  
Comm. Bernthal  
Comm. Zech  
SECY  
ACRS  
CA  
PDR

MNBB 10:40  
EDO  
PA  
MPA  
ELD

Phillips 10:52  
NRR

Air Rights 10:50  
SP

E/W 10:30  
IE  
OIA  
AEOD

INPO X  
NSAC X

Willste 11:07  
NMSS  
RES

MAIL:  
ADM:DMB  
DOT: Trans Only

Regions I 10:55, II 11:00, IV 11:10, V 11:14 Applicable Resident Site X Licensee (Corporate Office) X