

April 22, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-97-036

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
GME CONSULTANTS, INC.
Gme Consultants, Inc.
Bridgeview, Illinois
License No: IL-01274-22

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

Subject: STOLEN MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE

The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) reported that GME Consultants, Inc., had a Troxler 3440 moisture density gauge stolen from a licensee's truck on April 21, 1997. The gauge contains nine millicurie cesium-137 and 44 millicurie americium-241 sealed sources. A licensee employee was transporting the gauge, chained to the bed of a pickup truck, when he stopped at a restaurant in Chicago, IL. He returned to his truck and drove to his destination and then realized that the chain had been cut and the gauge, in its transport container, had been stolen. Other tools were also missing from the vehicle. The licensee reported that the gauge source handle was locked in the shielded position. The sources do not represent a significant radiation hazard when secured in the shielded position. The licensee notified the Chicago Police Department of the theft.

IDNS is investigating the incident. The Region III State Agreements Officer notified the NRC Operations Center, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards and Office of State Programs.

There has been some local media interest from television stations.

This information is current as of April 22, 1997 at 11:00 a.m. CDT.

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