

DCS No.: 03035886050816

Date: August 23, 2005

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-05-025

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 I staff on this date.

**Facility**

GEO-EXPLOR, Inc.  
MSC 928  
138 Avenue Winston Churchill  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00926-6023

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

Notification of Unusual Event  
 Alert  
 Site Area Emergency  
 General Emergency  
 Not Applicable

Docket No.: 03035886

License No.: 52-25580-01

SUBJECT: MISSING PORTABLE MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE

On August 16, 2005, the radiation safety officer of GEO-EXPLOR, Inc. notified the NRC that a CPN Model MC-1 portable moisture density gauge containing 10 millicuries of cesium-137 and 50 millicuries of americium-241 was lost after falling off a vehicle near the intersection of Road 693 and Efron Avenue in Dorado, Puerto Rico. At approximately 11:30 a.m., the licensee's gauge operator loaded the gauge which was stored in its locked transport case, into the truck bed for transport to a new work assignment. The operator failed to close the tailgate and secure the portable gauge to the truck bed. After driving less than a mile, the operator noticed that the portable gauge in its transport case was missing. The operator retraced his route but was unable to locate the lost portable gauge.

The licensee immediately notified the local police and Puerto Rico Department of Health officials. The licensee also prepared a press release and participated in a television interview as a means to alert the public relative to the lost device.

On August 22, 2005, the licensee reported that the portable gauge was found by a member of the public and returned undamaged with the case still locked. The individual found the lost gauge on the highway and stored it in his office building until alerted about the loss through press coverage. The licensee determined that no significant personnel radiation exposures resulted from this event.

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has been notified. The Region I Office of Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquiries. This information is current as of 11:30 a.m., August 23, 2005.

Contact: James Schmidt  
610-337-5276  
jws2@nrc.gov

DISTRIBUTIONS:

BY E-MAIL:

<u>OWFN</u>	<u>TWFN</u>	<u>LST</u>
Chairman Diaz	IRO	PDR
Comm. McGaffigan Jr.	NMSS	
Comm. Merrifield	OIG	
Comm. Lyons	RES	
Comm. Jaczko		
OIP		
OCA		
OGC		
EDO		
OE		
NRR		
SECY		
Regional Offices		

BY FAX:

DOT:Trans

INPO

NSAC

RI Resident Office

Licensee: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Reactor Licensees)

SISP Review Completed: JWS2

DOCUMENT NAME:S:\PN\PN105025.wpd

OFFICE	RI/DMNS	RI/DNMS	RI/DNMS	RI/SAO	RI/PAO
NAME	JSchmidt jws2	J Kinneman jdk	G Pangburn fmc	D White adw	D Screnci nas
DATE	8/23/05	8/23/05	8/23/05	8/23/05	8/23/05