

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-05-029

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**

Froehling & Robertson, Inc.  
1744 Seibel Drive, N.E,  
Roanoke, Virginia 24012

Docket No.: 030-06580  
License No.: 45-08890-02

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: PORTABLE DENSITY GAUGE REPORTED MISSING

On December 12, 2005, the licensee's corporate Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) notified the NRC that a portable moisture density gauge, Troxler model 3340, S/N 36310, containing Cs-137 (9 millicuries) and Am-241 (40 millicuries) was apparently stolen from a company pick-up truck. The truck was located outside the residence of a licensee technician. According to the RSO, in order to travel directly to a job site on the morning of Monday, December 12, 2005, the technician removed the gauge from the licensee's storage facility at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 11, 2005, loaded it into the truck, and traveled to his residence where the truck was parked overnight.

When the technician was about to leave at 7:15 a.m. on December 12, 2005, he noticed the gauge was missing and the two individual chains that properly secured the gauge to the rear of the truck were cut. The technician placed a 911 call and notified the Roanoke Police Department. Police responded and prepared report no. 143498. The licensee's manager of the Roanoke office is providing local coordination, and there was no media interest. An NRC followup call to the corporate RSO indicated that a reward could be offered on Tuesday, December 13, 2005, if the gauge was not found prior to that time.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has been notified. The Region I Office of Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquiries. This information is current as of 2:00 p.m., December 12, 2005.

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