

DCS No.: 03021053070319  
Date: March 26, 2007

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-07-003A

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**

Underwood Engineering Testing Co., Inc.  
3 South Black Horse Pike  
Mt. Ephraim, New Jersey 08059

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

Docket No.: 03021053  
License No.: 29-23425-01

SUBJECT: FOUND TROXLER MOISTURE/DENSITY PORTABLE GAUGE - UPDATE

On March 19, 2007, a moisture density gauge was stolen from the bed of a pickup truck parked at a construction site in Philadelphia, PA. The gauge, a Troxler Electronics Company Model 3430, contained an 8 millicurie sealed source of cesium-137 and a 40 millicurie sealed neutron source of americium-241. On March 22, the transportation container for the gauge was found in an alley off of Germantown Avenue in Philadelphia, approximately 6 miles from the construction site. Philadelphia Police and Fire Department personnel responded to the location. Radiation surveys performed by the Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Unit indicated the presence of radiation within the Nicetown Salvage Company facility located at 4027 Germantown Avenue, a short distance from the alley where the transportation case was found. NRC Region 1 and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection staff responded to the site and performed additional surveys, confirming that the cesium-137 sealed source was located within a trash container in the Nicetown Salvage Company facility. On March 23, the licensee recovered the cesium-137 source but determined that the stainless steel rod that contained the source had been separated from the rest of the gauge. The rest of the gauge could not be located at the Nicetown Salvage Company facility. The missing part of the gauge contained the americium-241 sealed neutron source. On March 24, NRC and inspectors from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection surveyed a metal recycling facility in Camden, NJ where metal from the Nicetown Salvage Company was shipped on March 21, 2007. Radiological surveys of this recycling facility and materials processed since March 21 did not identify any radioactive material.

On March 25, NRC and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requested the assistance of the Department of Energy's Radiological Assistance Program to perform additional surveys using instrumentation with greater sensitivity to the radiation emitted by the americium-241 sealed neutron source. DOE responded by sending personnel to the Philadelphia, PA and the Camden, NJ locations. Surveys of the Nicetown Salvage Company, the neighborhood surrounding the Nicetown facility, the construction site in Philadelphia, the route of travel between the Nicetown facility and the construction site, and the Camden recycling facility were all negative for radiation.

Philadelphia Police are still investigating the theft of the gauge and will inform NRC of any information that could lead to recovery of the americium source.

This information is current as of 2:30 p.m. on March 26, 2007. The content of this notification has been coordinated with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and State of New Jersey. The Region I Public Affairs Office has responded to media inquiries. The Region is issuing another Press Release with a picture of a similar gauge, requesting that NRC be notified should the rest of the gauge be located.

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