

December 23, 1999

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-99-057

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 IV staff in Arlington, Texas on this date.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
State Of Texas Licensee	Notification of Unusual Event
Reed Engineering Group, Inc.	Alert
Dallas, Texas	Site Area Emergency
	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: STOLEN PORTABLE MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE

On December 22, 1999, the Texas Bureau of Radiation Control (TBRC) notified the NRC Region IV office and the NRC Operations Center of the theft of a portable moisture density gauge from Reed Engineering Group, Inc., a Texas Licensee. TBRC received telephone notification of the theft which occurred during the evening of December 15, 1999.

The gauge is a Troxler Model 3430 (Serial No. 26619) containing a cesium-137 source (Serial No. 75-8687) of approximately 296 megabecquerels (8 millicuries) and an americium-241/beryllium source (Serial No. 47-23085) of approximately 1.48 gigabecquerels (40 millicuries). The gauge was taken from the bed of a truck parked at an employee's residence in Dallas, Texas. The gauge was stored in an approved transportation package and was secured to the vehicle by chain. On the morning of December 16 the employee found the chain was cut and the gauge and other equipment missing from the vehicle. The Texas licensee notified the Dallas Police Department of the theft.

TBRC notified Mexico and the States of Arkansas, Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

Region IV has informed the OEDO, OSP, NMSS and the I.A.T.

This information has been discussed with the State of Texas and is current as of 8:00 a.m., December 23, 1999.

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