

August 15, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-00-017

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 IV staff on this date.

Facility

Welding Testing X-Ray, Inc.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
(State of Louisiana License)

Docket: License No.LA-3266

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event

Alert

Site Area Emergency

General Emergency

Not Applicable

SUBJECT: RADIOGRAPHY CAMERA FOUND ON ROAD

DESCRIPTION:

On August 13, 2000, NRC's Headquarters Operations Officer notified Region IV staff that the sheriff's department had reported that a locked radiography camera containing iridium-192 had been recovered by the fire department near Canyon Lake, Texas. Region IV staff contacted the state of Texas and was informed that an inspector had been dispatched to the site to take possession of the device.

The radiography camera belonged to Welding Testing X-Ray, Inc., a Louisiana licensee. Texas officials stated that this licensee was authorized to conduct radiography in the Texas under reciprocity. A licensee representative indicated that they had placed the radiography camera on the tailgate of their truck after work was completed. Apparently the camera fell out of the truck soon after its departure from the work site. Later that day, the licensee discovered that the camera was missing. The local fire department had come into possession of the camera, and through coordination with the state of Texas, had it returned to the licensee. The state of Texas is currently investigating this event.

The regional office has informed OEDO, OPA, STP, NMSS, and the state of Louisiana.

This information has been discussed with the state of Texas and is current as of 11:00 a.m., August 15, 2000.

CONTACTS: Vivian H. Campbell (817) 860-8143
Chuck Cain (817) 860-8186