

September 19, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-00-024

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

Quality Testing and Engineering, Inc.
Dallas, Texas
License No.: L05222-001
(Texas Licensee)

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN TROXLER NUCLEAR GAUGE

DESCRIPTION: On September 19, 2000, the Texas Bureau of Radiation Control (TBRC) notified Region IV that during a routine inspection of the licensee, they discovered that a portable gauge had been stolen. The gauge was stolen on January 14, 2000, from a parked vehicle at a Kroger store at 525 North Galloway, Mesquite, Texas. The licensee reported that the chain securing the device to the truck had been cut. The licensee determined that the gauge was stolen between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. while the driver/operator stopped en route to the company storage facility. The Troxler Model 4640 (Serial No. 240) portable gauge contained a 296 megabecquerel (8 millicuries) cesium-137 source (Serial No. 50-3271). The Mesquite Police Department was notified. The gauge has not been recovered.

The State of Texas has informed officials in Mexico and the States of Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, and New Mexico. They have also informed the device manufacturer.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by facsimile from State of Texas on September 19, 2000. The State also transmitted the facsimile report to the NRC Operations Center. Region IV has informed the IAT, NMSS, OEDO and OSTP.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 3:00 p.m. on September 19, 2000.

CONTACTS: Vivian Campbell Linda Howell
 817-860-8143 817-860-8213