

September 19, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-00-023

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

Raba-Kistner
Austin, Texas
License No.: L01571-002
(Texas Licensee)

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN/LOST TROXLER NUCLEAR GAUGE

DESCRIPTION: On September 19, 2000, the Texas Bureau of Radiation Control (TBRC) notified Region IV that a portable density gauge had been reported missing. The Troxler Model 3411B (Serial No.12037) portable gauge contained a 200 megabecquerel (5.4 millicuries) cesium-137 source (Serial No. 40-9359) and a 1443 megabecquerel (39 millicuries) americium-241/beryllium source (Serial No. 47-7153). The Texas licensee reported that the gauge had been stolen or lost on the job site on September 14, 2000. The licensee stated that after work at a temporary jobsite was completed, the gauge was placed in the back of a company pickup without a case and was not secured to the vehicle. The driver/operator remembered placing the tailgate in the up/closed position and having a short conversation away from the truck before departing the worksite. However, while driving along RM620 between Texas Highway 183 and Interstate 35 (Austin, Texas), the driver noticed the tailgate was in the lowered position and immediately stopped. The gauge was missing. It is not known if the gauge was stolen from the vehicle while at the worksite or lost along the highway. The licensee searched the route taken by the driver, but the gauge was not recovered. A police report was filed with the Austin Police Department.

The State of Texas informed officials with Mexico and the States of Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, and New Mexico.

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

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

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