

September 25, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-00- 026

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**

Arias and Kezan Inc.  
10821 Gulf Dale  
San Antonio, Texas 78216  
License No.: L04964-001  
Texas Licensee

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN NUCLEAR GAUGE

DESCRIPTION: On September 25, 2000, the Texas Bureau of Radiation Control (TBRC) notified Region IV by facsimile of a stolen portable gauge. The TBRC was informed by Arias and Kezan, Inc., that a Troxler Model 3430 (Serial No. 31532) portable gauge containing a 296 megabequerel (8 millicuries) cesium-137 source (Serial No. 750-6340) and a 1480 megabequerel (40 millicuries) americium-241/beryllium source (Serial No. 47-28154) had been stolen. The licensee informed TBRC that the gauge was stolen from the back of a company truck parked at overnight lodging in Brownsville, Texas. The operator/driver discovered the theft between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. this morning. The gauge case had been secured to the bed of the truck by chains. The security chains had been cut and the gauge and the operator's tool box stolen. A police report was promptly filed with the Brownsville Police Department.

The TBRC has informed officials with Mexico and the states of Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, and New Mexico. The State also informed the device manufacturer.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by facsimile from TBRC on September 25, 2000. Region IV has informed the OEDO, IAT, NMSS, and OSTP.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 11:00 a.m. on September 25, 2000.

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