

December 6, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-00-034

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

Dames and Moore
Phoenix, Arizona
License No.: 07-228
Arizona Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGES

DESCRIPTION:

On December 6, 2000, the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency (ARRA) notified Region IV by facsimile that two portables gauges were stolen. The ARRA was informed by Dames and Moore, that two Troxler Model 3440 portable gauges (Serial No. 13024 and Serial No. 17318) were missing from a locked storage building at 1790 East River Road, Tucson, Arizona. The locked storage building also had 24-hour security guard surveillance. The lock on the building had been cut and the gauges stolen. The licensee informed ARRA that the gauges were last seen in the storage building on December 4, 2000. Each gauge contained a 296.0 megabequerel (8.0 millicurie) cesium-137 source and a 1628.0 megabequerel (44 millicurie) americium-241/beryllium source. The Tucson Police Department was promptly notified and is conducting an investigation. In addition, the ARRA has dispatched an inspector to the Tucson, Arizona facility. The licensee is offering a \$500.00 reward.

The State of Arizona has informed officials with Mexico and the States of Utah, California, Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada. The State also informed the FBI. The State will be issuing a press release.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by facsimile from ARRA at 10:00 a.m. on December 6, 2000. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, IAT, and OSTP.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 12:00 p.m. on December 6, 2000.

CONTACTS: Vivian Campbell Charles Cain
 817-860-8143 817-860-8186