January 5, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-002

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
Pacific Soils Engineering
Oceanside, California
License No.: 3142
California Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification
___ Notification of Unusual Event
___ Alert
___ Site Area Emergency
___ General Emergency
_X_ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On January 5, 2001, the California Radiation Health Branch (CRHB) notified NRC's Operation Center by phone that a portable gauge was stolen. The CRHB was informed by Pacific Soils Engineering, a California licensee, that a Campbell Pacific Nuclear moisture/density gauge, Model MC-3 (Serial No. M380504284) was stolen from a storage unit in Oceanside, California between 1530 PST, December 29 and 1200 PST December 30, 2000. The gauge contains a 296.0 megabequerel (8.0 millicurie) cesium-137 source and a 1480.0 megabequerel (40 millicurie) americium-241/berylium source. The licensee is offering a reward for return of the gauge.

NRC's Operation Center notified Region IV of this occurrence on January 5, 2001. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, IAT, OPA, and OSTP.

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