

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
 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/beryllium 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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