

January 18, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-003

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

Reed Engineering Group
Houston, Texas
License No.: L04343
Texas Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: LOST PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On January 17, 2001, the Texas Bureau of Radiation Control (TBRC) notified Region IV by facsimile of a lost portable gauge. The TBRC was informed by Reed Engineering Group, that a Humboldt Scientific Model 5001EZ122 portable gauge (Serial No. 3562) containing a 370.0 megabequerel (10 millicurie) cesium-137 source (Serial No. 9486GQ) and a 148.0 megabequerel (40 millicurie) americium-241 beryllium source (Serial No. NJ03851) had been lost. The licensee informed TBRC that the gauge was lost on December 20, 2000, while it was being transported in an unsecure manner and not in its transport case. The licensee believes that the gauge was lost on the service road of Highway 90 between S.W. 36th Street and the Gen. McMullen exit in San Antonio, Texas. The operator performed an extensive search for the gauge along the highway. The licensee posted a notice offering a reward in the San Antonio Express News. However, the gauge has not been recovered as of this date. The licensee promptly reported the loss of the gauge to the San Antonio police department.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by facsimile from TBRC at 3:00 p.m. on January 17, 2001. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, and OSTP.

This information has been discussed with the state of Texas and is current as of 10:00 a.m. on January 18, 2001.

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