

February 7, 2001

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-005**

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**

GeoEngineers  
Redmond, WA  
License No.: WN-I0204-1  
Washington Licensee

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

**SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE**

**DESCRIPTION:**

On February 6, 2001, the Washington Department of Health (the Department) notified NRC's Operations Center and Region IV by e-mail of a stolen portable gauge. The Department was informed by GeoEngineers that a Campbell Pacific Nuclear Model MC-3DR portable gauge (Serial No. MD0069648), containing a 370.0 megabecquerel (10 millicuries) source of cesium-137 and a 1850.0 megabecquerel (50 millicuries) source of americium-241/beryllium had been stolen.

The licensee informed the Department that the authorized user had taken his work equipment home (North Bend, Washington) with him in preparation for an early start to a temporary job site. At approximately 5:45 a.m. (PST), the authorized user loaded his work truck with his equipment, including the portable gauge. The gauge, in its orange transport box, was loaded into the back of an open-bed full-size Chevy pickup and secured to the bed of the truck with a cable and lock. The authorized user left his truck running and went back into the house to finish a cup of coffee. When he came out again his truck was gone. He reported the theft to the King County Sheriff and to the company's radiation safety officer. The Washington Department of Health was notified about 11:45 a.m. (PST). The Department advised the licensee to offer a reward.

NRC's Operation Center received notification of this occurrence by e-mail from the Washington Department of Health at 10:45 p.m. (EST) on February 7, 2001. Region IV has informed IAT, OPA, SLO, ED0, NMSS, and OSTP.

This information is current as of 8:30 a.m. (CST) February 7, 2001.

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