

February 20, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-006A

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

Standard Testing and Engineering Co.
Del City, Oklahoma
License No.: OK17054-03
Oklahoma Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN TROXLER PORTABLE GAUGE - UPDATE

DESCRIPTION:

On February 17, 2001, the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (OKDEQ) notified the NRC Operations Center that a previously reported stolen gauge had been recovered. Standard Testing and Engineering notified OKDEQ that the gauge had been found on the side of the road along Interstate-35 in south Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, by a member of the public on February 17, 2001. The gauge was found intact in its case. The lock on the source rod was also in place. The licensee is performing a wipe test of the device to be sure that there is no leakage. The licensee promptly notified local law enforcement.

Description of the Event: On February 11, 2001, Standard Testing and Engineering, an Oklahoma licensee, notified NRC's Operation Center of a stolen portable gauge. Standard Testing and Engineering stated that a Troxler Model 3430 (Serial No. 16299) had been stolen out of the back of an employee's truck while parked at 3905 SE 22nd Street in Del City, Oklahoma. The gauge, which contained a 296 megabequerel (8 millicuries) cesium-137 source and a 1480 megabequerel (40 millicuries) americium-241/beryllium source, was triple locked in the back of the truck. The gauge was stolen on the night of February 10, 2001 or the morning of February 11, 2001. The licensee notified the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (OKDEQ), the local police, and the device manufacturer. The local police are conducting an investigation. The licensee issued a press release.

NRC's Operation Center received notification of the returned gauge from OKDEQ on February 17, 2001. Region IV has informed, OSTP, IAT, NMSS, OEDO and RIV's SLO and PAO.

This information has been discussed with the State of Oklahoma and is current as of 11:30 a.m. on February 20, 2001.

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