

March 5, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-11

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

Delta Geotechnical Consultants, Inc.
Salt Lake City, Utah
License No.: UT 18000038
Utah Licensee operating in Nevada under reciprocity

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On March 2, 2001, the Nevada State Health Division (NSHD) notified the NRC's Operations Center by facsimile of a stolen portable gauge. The NSHD was informed by Delta Geotechnical Consultants, Inc., a Utah based corporation operating in Nevada under reciprocity, that a Troxler Model 3430 portable gauge (Serial No. 25510) containing a 296 megabequerel (8 millicuries) cesium-137 source and a 1480 megabequerel (40 millicuries) americium-241/beryllium source, was stolen out of their company truck while parked overnight at a local motel in Las Vegas, Nevada. The licensee informed NSHD that the gauge was chained to the truck bed. The gauge was last seen at 2300 PST on March 1, 2001. At 0700 PST on March 2, 2001, the authorized user discovered that the chain had been cut and the gauge had been stolen. The licensee promptly reported the theft to the Las Vegas Metro Police.

The NSHD has notified the State of Utah.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center. Region IV has informed the OEDO, NMSS, OSTP, IAT and Region IV's SLO and PAO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 11:00 a.m. CST on March 5, 2001.

CONTACTS: Vivian Campbell Dwight Chamberlain
 817-860-8143 817-860-8106