

March 26, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-014

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

Twining Labs
Fresno, California
License No.: 1014
California Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE

DESCRIPTION: On March 23, 2001, the California Radiologic Health Branch (CRHB) notified NRC of a stolen portable gauge. The CRHB was informed by Twining Lab, that a Troxler Model 3430 (Serial No. 20467) portable gauge containing a 333.0 megabecquerel (9.0 millicuries) source of cesium-137 and a 1.63 gigabecquerel (44 millicuries) source of americium-241/beryllium was stolen on March 16, 2001. The licensee informed CRHB that the gauge was stolen from the bed of the truck while parked at a convenience store in Fresno, California. The gauge case had been secured to the truck bed with chains, and the transport case was locked during transit. The user discovered the chains had been cut and the gauge stolen at 7:00 a.m. on March 16, 2001. The licensee promptly notified the local police and plans to offer a reward for the return of the gauge.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on March 23, 2001. Region IV has informed NMSS, OSTP, OEDO, IAT and the Region's SLO and PAO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 11:00 a.m on March 26, 2001.

CONTACTS: Vivian Campbell Linda Howell
 817-860-8143 817-860-8213