

April 26, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-018

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**

Geo Technical Exploration Inc.  
San Diego, California  
License No.: 5894  
California Licensee

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On April 25, 2001, the California Radiologic Health Branch (CRHB) notified NRC of a stolen portable gauge. The CRHB was informed by Geo Technical Exploration Inc. that a CPN Model 3 (Serial No.M30069611) portable gauge, containing a 296 to 370 megabequerel (8-10 millicuries) source of cesium-137 and a .74 to 1.85 gigabequerel (20-50 millicuries) source of americium-241/beryllium, was found missing. The licensee informed CRHB on April 24, 2001, that the gauge was stolen from the back of a truck most likely on April 19, 2001. The gauge was discovered missing by the licensee on April 24, 2001. The gauge case was in its transportation case and chained to the truck. The local police were notified and a reward has been offered for the return of the gauge.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on April 25, 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 1:20 p.m (CDT) on April 26, 2001.

CONTACTS: Linda McLean                      Vivian Campbell  
                  817-860-8116                      817-860-8143