

May 11, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-020

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

Technical Welding Laboratory
Pasadena, Texas
License No.: L02187
Texas Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN RADIOGRAPHY CAMERA

DESCRIPTION: On May 10, 2001, the Texas Bureau of Radiation Control (TBRC) notified NRC's Operations Center of a stolen radiography camera. The TBRC was informed on May 10, 2001, by Technical Welding Laboratory, a Texas licensee, that a SPEC 150 Camera #23 containing a 1.48 megabecquerel (40 curies) iridium-192 source (Serial No. KB 0109) had been stolen. The licensee informed the TBRC that a truck and the camera were stolen in Pasadena, Texas. The truck was found by the local police; however, the camera was missing from the truck. The licensee plans to make a press release. The TBRC is continuing to work with the licensee and local authorities to locate the camera. The TBRC has not requested assistance from the NRC at this time.

NRC Operations Center received notification of this occurrence from TBRC at 5:30 p.m. (EDT) on May 10, 2001. Region IV has informed OEDO, IAT, NMSS, OSTP, and Region IV's SLO and PAO. The IAT notified the FBI headquarters and Region IV is notifying the local FBI office.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 9:30 a.m. (CDT) on May 11, 2001.

CONTACTS: Linda McLean
817-860-8116

Vivian Campbell
817-860-8143