

May 16, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-019A

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

Las Vegas Paving
North Las Vegas, Nevada
License No.: 00-11-0255-01
Nevada Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE - UPDATE

DESCRIPTION:

On May 16, 2001, the Nevada State Health Division (NSHD) notified the NRC Operations Center that a previously reported stolen gauge had been recovered. On May 11, 2001, the licensee reported to the NSHD that they recovered the stolen gauge. The gauge was found on May 10, 2001, in Henderson, Nevada, by a pedestrian. Because the licensee's name and telephone number was on the gauge the pedestrian called the licensee directly, and the licensee immediately retrieved the gauge. The lock on the transport case was broken, but the gauge locks were intact. No apparent tampering of the gauge was noted. The gauge was leak tested and placed in storage pending the outcome of the leak test.

Description of the Event: On May 4, 2001, the Nevada State Health Division (NSHD) notified the NRC Operations Center of a stolen portable gauge. The NSHD was informed by Las Vegas Paving, that a Troxler Model 4640-B portable gauge (Serial No. 1658) containing a 333 megabecquerel (9 millicurie) source of cesium-137 had been stolen. The authorized user had secured the portable gauge in its locked case. The locked case was then chained and locked in the bed of a pickup truck. The chain securing the case was cut, and the gauge was stolen while the authorized user was in the convenience store located at Losse and Cheyene Road in North Las Vegas, Nevada at approximately 6:15 a.m. on May 4, 2001. The licensee promptly reported the theft to the local police department.

Region IV received the update notification from the NRC Operations Center on May 16, 2001 at 1:00 p.m. (CDT). Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, and OSTP. This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 2:15 p.m. (CDT) on May 16, 2001.

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