

June 26, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-026

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

Tolunay-Wong Engineers, Inc.
Houston, Texas
License No.: L04848
Texas Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: LOST OR STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION: On June 26, 2001, the Texas Bureau of Radiation Control (TBRC) notified NRC's Operations Center of a lost or stolen portable gauge. The TBRC was informed by Tolunay-Wong Engineers, Inc. on June 13, 2001, that a Troxler Electronic Laboratories, Inc. Model 3430 (Serial No. 27955) portable moisture density gauge containing a 1.48 gigabequerel (40 millicuries) source of americium-241/beryllium and a 370.0 megabequerel (10 millicuries) source of cesium-137 was missing from the storage facility located in Houston, Texas. The licensee informed TBRC that they had discovered the gauge and its transportation container missing while conducting a routine inventory on June 12, 2001. The portable gauge was stored in its locked transportation container and last seen on April 26, 2001. There was no evidence of tampering or break-in. The licensee promptly notified the local police department and the device manufacturer.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operation Center on June 26, 2001. Region IV has informed IAT, OSTP, NMSS, OEOD and the Region's SLO and PAO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 3:15 p.m. (CDT) June 26, 2001.

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