

July 18, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-033

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

Caltrans, District 7
California Department of Transportation
Los Angeles, California
License No.: 1607
California Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: LOST OR STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On July 17, 2001, the California Radiologic Health Branch (CRHB) notified NRC's Operations Center of a lost or stolen portable gauge. The CRHB was informed by Caltrans that a Troxler Electronic Laboratories Model 3241 (Serial No. 279) portable asphalt content gauge containing between 3.7 and 11.1 gigabecquerels (100 and 300 millicuries) of americium-241/beryllium was missing.

The licensee informed CRHB that they had discovered the gauge missing while performing a routine inventory on July 17, 2001. The licensee is continuing to conduct an investigation. The licensee promptly notified the local police department and is offering a reward for the return of the gauge.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center at approximately 8:00 p.m. (CDT) on July 17, 2001. Region IV has informed IAT, OEDO, NMSS, OSTP, and the Region's SLO and PAO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 11:00 a.m. (CDT) on July 18, 2001 .

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