

August 29, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-039

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

Law Engineering & Environmental Services
Phoenix, Arizona
License No.: 07-326
Arizona Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On August 28, 2001, the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency (ARRA) notified the NRC Operations Center by phone and Region IV by facsimile of a stolen portable gauge. The ARRA was informed by Law Engineering & Environmental Services (an Arizona licensee) on August 28, 2001, that a Troxler Model 3411B moisture/density gauge (Serial No. 17677) containing a 296 megabequerel (8 millicurie) source of cesium-137 and a 1.63 gigabequerel (44 millicurie) source of americium-241/beryllium had been stolen. The licensee had informed ARRA that they were unsure when the gauge was taken; however, it was last seen on August 28, 2001, at approximately 3:00 a.m. in Chandler, Arizona. The retaining cable securing the locked transportation case to the bed of the truck was cut. The Phoenix police department is investigating the matter. The licensee plans to issue a press release and is offering a reward for the return of the gauge.

The State of Arizona has informed the FBI, Mexico, and the States of Utah, New Mexico, California, and Colorado.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by facsimile from ARRA at 5:00 p.m. (CDT) on August 28, 2001. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, OSTP, IAT and the Region's SLO.

This information is current as of 8:00 a.m. (CDT), on August 29, 2001.

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