

October 26, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-045A

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

Leighton and Associates
Irvine, California
License No.: 3109-30
California State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE - UPDATE

DESCRIPTION: On October 25, 2001, the California Radiation Control Program (CRCP) notified the NRC Operations Center that a previously reported stolen gauge had been recovered.

On October 10, 2001, the CRCP had notified NRC of a reported theft of a portable moisture/density gauge (PNO-IV-01-045). Leighton and Associates had reported that the gauge was stolen on October 8 while in temporary storage in a company vehicle parked at the employee's residence in Hemet, California. The authorized user had left the gauge in its transport case, which was chained to the bed of the truck. The truck bed was not covered. The following day, the user discovered that the gauge had been stolen from the bed of the truck. The licensee offered a reward for the return of the gauge.

On October 22, 2001, the licensee notified the CRCP that he had received a phone message over the weekend from a man claiming he had found the gauge by a dumpster. The licensee notified the local police department who then recovered the gauge on October 23. CRCP conducted a reactive inspection. The inspector conducted surveys and visually inspected the device to confirm the identity of the gauge. CRCP found no evidence of leakage, tampering, or damage. The licensee has taken possession of the gauge and plans to conduct a service check and leak testing of the source.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from the NRC Operations Center at 2:30 p.m. on October 25, 2001. Region IV has informed the OEDO, IAT, NMSS, OSTP and Region IV's SLO and PAO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 3:30 p.m. on October 25, 2001.

CONTACTS: Vivian Campbell Dwight Chamberlain
 817-860-8143 817-860-8206