

December 20, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-01-054

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

Angelo lafrate Construction, LLC
Agreement State Licensee
New Orleans, Louisiana
Louisiana License No. LA071590L01

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

At 11:12 (EST) on December 20, 2001, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality notified the NRC Operations Center of a reported stolen density gauge. The Agreement State licensee (licensee), Angelo lafrate Construction, LLC, was performing work at a construction site in New Orleans on December 19. The gauge operator had completed density measurements at one location and moved the gauge to the next location where measurements were to be obtained at approximately 12:00 p.m. The gauge was apparently left unattended and was discovered missing at approximately 2:00 p.m. The density gauge was a Troxler Model 3450, and the serial number was 180. The gauge housed a 0.296 gigabequerel (8 millicurie) cesium-137 source and a 1.48 gigabequerel (40 millicurie) americium-241/beryllium source. The licensee has notified the New Orleans Police Department.

The State of Louisiana has been informed.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by the NRC Operations Center at 1:15 p.m. on December 20, 2001. Region IV has informed the IAT, NMSS, OSTP and OEDO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 3:00 p.m., December 20, 2001.

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