

December 21, 2001

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

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 - UPDATE

DESCRIPTION:

On December 21, 2001, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) notified Region IV that a previously reported stolen gauge had been recovered. The Agreement State licensee, Angelo lafrate Construction, LLC, notified LDEQ that a company employee had found the gauge in a ditch near the construction site about noon today. The gauge appeared to be in good condition. LDEQ has sent an inspector to the facility.

Description of the Event: On December 20, 2001, the LDEQ notified the NRC Operations Center of a reported stolen density gauge. The licensee 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 (Serial No. 180) containing a 0.296 gigabequerel (8 millicurie) cesium-137 source and a 1.48 gigabequerel (40 millicurie) americium-241/beryllium source.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by the State at 2:00 p.m. on December 21, 2001. Region IV has informed the IAT, NMSS, OSTP and OEDO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 2:00 p.m., December 21, 2001.

CONTACTS:

Vivian Campbell
(817) 860-8143

Dwight Chamberlain
817-860-8106