

January 14 , 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-003

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

Raba-Kistner Consultants, Inc.
Agreement State Licensee
San Antonio Texas
Texas License No. L01571-000

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

At 8:26 a.m. (EST) on January 14, 2002, the Texas Department of Health notified the NRC Operations Center of a reported stolen density gauge. The Agreement State licensee, Raba-Kistner Consultants Inc., stated that the gauge was stolen from a company pickup truck parked in a public parking lot in downtown San Antonio. The gauge had last been used at approximately 12:30 p.m., January 10, 2002, and was secured in the bed of the pickup. The operator/driver proceeded to several other jobs during the afternoon. When returning to the truck, the operator/driver noticed the tailgate in the down position and the gauge case open. The gauge was stolen by cutting the lock on the transport case and removing the gauge from the case. A police report was filed with the San Antonio Police Department. The gauge was recovered by the San Antonio Police Department on the morning of January 11, 2002. They reported that they broke up a fight between two men who were arguing over the gauge on the side of a San Antonio street. The two men informed the police that they saw the gauge thrown from the rear of a van traveling down the street. The police noticed the radiation symbol on the gauge during the recovery. The gauge is packaged and being readied by the licensee for shipment to the manufacturer, Troxler in Arlington, Texas, for leak testing. The gauge is a Troxler Model 3411, Serial Number 9260. The gauge contains a 0.307 gigabequerel (8.3 millicurie) cesium-137 source and a 1.48 gigabequerel (40 millicurie) americium-241/beryllium source.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by the NRC Operations Center at 8:26 a.m. on January 14, 2002. Region IV has informed NMSS, OSTP, IAT, RIV PAO, RIV SLO, and OEDO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 11:30 a.m., January 14, 2002.

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