

February 22, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-012

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**

Geosoils, Inc.  
Carlsbad, California  
License No.: 6762-37  
California Licensee

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On February 20, 2002, the California Radiation Health Branch (CRHB) notified NRC's Operation Center by phone that a portable gauge was stolen. The CRHB was informed by Geosoils, Inc., a California licensee, that a moisture/density gauge and other construction equipment was stolen from the locked storage container at a construction site in Chino Hills, California, between the evening of February 19 and the morning of February 20. The Campbell Pacific Nuclear moisture/density gauge, Model CPN MC3 (Serial No. M38088381) contains a nominal activity of 370.0 megabequerel (10.0 millicurie) cesium-137 source and a 1850.0 megabequerel (50 millicurie) americium-241/beryllium source. The licensee promptly reported the theft to the local police department and issued a press release offering a reward for the return of the gauge.

NRC's Operation Center notified Region IV of this occurrence on February 21, 2002. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, IAT, OPA, STP, and RIV SLO.

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