

February 27, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-013

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**

ACS Engineering Group, Construction  
Tempe, Arizona  
License No.: 07-422  
Arizona Agreement State Licensee

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: LOSS OF CONTROL AND RECOVERY OF A MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On February 26, 2002, the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency (ARRA) notified NRC Region IV by facsimile of the loss of control and recovery of a portable gauge. The ARRA was informed by the Gilbert, Arizona fire department on February 26, 2002, that a Troxler moisture/density gauge, Model 2401 (Serial No. MD91005368) containing a 370 megabequerel (10 millicurie) source of americium-241/beryllium and a 1.48 gigabequerel (40 millicurie) cesium-137 source had been recovered by a motorist that saw the device fall off of a truck. The motorist picked up the gauge and turned it into the local police department. ARRA determined that the truck was operated by two employees of ACS Engineering Group, Construction, an Arizona licensee. The gauge was not damaged. The licensee reclaimed the device on February 26, 2002. ARRA will be investigating the event. Media interest included reports by three local television stations.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by facsimile from ARRA at 2:35 p.m. (CT) on February 26, 2002. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, STP, and OPA.

This information is current as of 9:30 a.m. (CT), on February 27, 2002.

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