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Not for public disclosure per Agreement State request until 6/4/02

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-026

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

Hunter Industries, Ltd.
Agreement State Licensee
San Antonio, Texas
Texas License No. L04175-000

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On May, 30, 2002, the Texas Department of Health notified the NRC Operations Center of a reported stolen density gauge. The Agreement State licensee, Hunter Industries, Ltd., reported that the portable gauge had been in use at a job site in San Antonio and was secured in the bed of a company pickup truck. The gauge was discovered missing at 8 a.m (CDT) on May 20, 2002. The gauge, a Troxler Thin-Lift Asphalt Gauge Model 4640B (Serial No. 1825) contains a 0.30 gigabequerel (8 millicurie) cesium-137 sealed source (Serial No. 75-8669). The transportation case was pried open, and the gauge was removed. The transport case was left in the rear of the pickup truck, and only the Troxler portable gauge was stolen. A police report was filed by the Agreement State licensee with the San Antonio Police Department.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by the NRC Operations Center at 9:30 a.m. (CDT) on May 30, 2002. Region IV has informed NMSS, STP, IAT, RIV PAO, RIV SLO, and OEDO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 12:30 p.m. (CDT) May 30, 2002.

Region IV's State Liaison Officer will notify Mexico.

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