

May 31, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-027

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**

Construction Inspection and Testing  
Tempe, Arizona  
License No.: 7-98  
Arizona Agreement State Licensee

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: Lost or Stolen Portable Gauge

DESCRIPTION:

On May 31, 2002, the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency (ARRA) notified NRC's Operations Center of the loss of a portable gauge. Construction Inspection and Testing, an Arizona licensee, informed the ARRA that a Troxler moisture/density gauge and company truck was missing. The licensee stated that the operator had failed to report to a designated job site. The device was a Troxler Model 3440 (Serial No. 21935) moisture/density gauge containing a 296.0 megabequerel (8 millicurie) cesium-137 source (Serial No. 75-3524) and a 1.48 gigabequerel (40 millicurie) americium-241/beryllium source (Serial No. 47-17271). The licensee promptly notified the local police department and is offering a \$250 reward for the return of the gauge and truck

The state of Arizona has informed the FBI, Mexico, and the states of Colorado, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, and California.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from the Operations Center at 12:52 p.m. (CDT) on May 31, 2002. Region IV has informed the IAT, OEDO, NMSS, OSTP, and the Region's SLO and PAO. Region IV's SLO will also notify Mexico.

This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 2:20 p.m. (CDT) on May 31, 2002.

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