

June 10, 2002

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

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 - Update

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

UPDATE: On June 4, 2002, the ARRA reported that the gauge and truck had been recovered by the local police and returned to the licensee. The licensee informed ARRA that the gauge was found locked and secured in the bed of the truck. ARRA is continuing to investigate.

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 on June 4, 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 1:00 p.m. (CDT) on June 10, 2002.

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