

June 7, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-028

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**

B. J. Services  
NRC General Licensee  
Tomball, Texas

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

**SUBJECT: REPORT OF MISPLACED SEALED SOURCE**

**DESCRIPTION:** On June 6, 2002, B. J. Services, Inc., a NRC general licensee notified the NRC Operations Center of a lost or misplaced generally licensed slurry density gauge. The Kay Ray Model 7063 slurry density gauge (Serial No. 28820) contains a 9.25 gigabequerel (250 millicuries) cesium-137 sealed source. The last reported location of the gauge was Rock Springs, Wyoming, on September 8, 1990, during a leak test of the source. The gauge was then owned by the Western Company which was acquired by B. J. Services in 1995. NRC Region IV inspectors, in attempting to locate missing general licensees, contacted the Western Company and were referred to B. J. Services as the owner of the generally licensed gauge. When contacted by NRC Region IV, B. J. Services began the search for the generally license device which led to this report. B. J. Services plans to continue their investigation.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by the NRC Operations Center at 10:57 a.m. (EDT) on June 6, 2002. Region IV has informed NMSS, STP, RIV PAO, RIV SLO, and OEDO.

This information has been discussed with the state of Texas and Wyoming and is current as of 9:30 p.m. (CDT) June 07, 2002.

**CONTACTS:** Jack E. Whitten  
(817) 860-8197