

August 28, 2002

This Event is not for public disclosure per Agreement State request until 8/30/02.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-045

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

Klienfelder, Inc.
Diamond Bar, CA
License No.6852-19
Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: MISSING PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On August 28, 2002, the California Radiation Health Branch (CRHB) notified NRC's Operations Center of a missing Troxler Electronic Laboratories, Inc. moisture/density gauge, Model 3411 (Serial No. 12878). The gauge contained a nominal .296 gigabequerel (8 millicurie) cesium-137 source and a 1.48 gigabequerel (40 millicurie) americium-241/beryllium source. Klienfelder, the California licensee, informed the CRHB that they discovered the gauge missing while conducting a routine inventory on August 26, 2002. The licensee stated that there was no evidence of forced entry, and nothing else was missing from the storage building. According to utilization records, the gauge was last accounted for on June 21, 2002, when it was placed into storage after use. The licensee promptly notified the local police department and is offering a reward for the return of the gauge. The licensee and CRHB is continuing to investigate this event.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on August 28, 2002. Region IV has informed NMSS, OEDO, OSTP, IAT, and Region IV's PAO and SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 11:45 a.m. on August 28, 2002.

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