

October 4, 2002

***This Event is not for public disclosure per Agreement State request until 10/8/02.***

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-053

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**

Jim Taylor  
Stockton, CA  
License No. 4900  
Agreement State Licensee

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On October 3, 2002, the California Radiation Control Program notified NRC's Operations Center of a missing Campbell Pacific Nuclear moisture/density gauge, Model 503DR (Serial No. H36107151). The gauge contained a nominal .37 gigabequerel (10 millicurie) cesium-137 source and a 1.1 gigabequerel (30 millicurie) americium-241/beryllium source. Jim Taylor, the California licensee, informed the California Radiation Control Program that the gauge was taken from the back of an all-terrain vehicle while the gauge user was in a porta-potty on October 1, 2002. According to the licensee, the gauge was being used to measure moisture content of the soil in a walnut grove on Duncan Road near Stockton, California. The gauge was not secured onto the ATV at the time of the theft. The licensee and the California Radiation Control Program is continuing to investigate this event.

The licensee will inform the local police of the missing gauge, and he will run an offer of a reward in a local newspaper for the recovery of the gauge.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on October 3, 2002. Region IV has informed NMSS, OSTP and IAT, and will inform OEDO and Region IV's PAO and SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 3:00 pm on October 4, 2002.

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