

November 1, 2002

THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 11/5/02.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-064

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

Kumar and Associates, Inc.
Denver, Colorado
License No.: 778-01
Colorado 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 31, 2002, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (the Department) notified NRC's Operations Center of the reported theft of a portable moisture/density gauge.

On October 31, 2002, the Department received notification of the theft of the gauge from Kumar and Associates, Inc., a Colorado licensee. The licensee reported that the gauge had been stolen from the open bed of a pickup truck while parked in front of a private residence in Denver, Colorado, sometime during the night of October 30, 2002. The gauge was locked in its transportation case and secured to the bed of the pickup truck. The user discovered that the chain securing the gauge to the bed of the truck had been cut. The gauge is a Troxler Electronic Laboratories Model 3440 (Serial No. 16911), containing a 0.33 gigabequerel (9 millicurie) source of cesium-137 and a 1.63 gigabequerel (44 millicurie) source of americium-241:beryllium. The licensee promptly notified the local police. The Department is continuing to investigate this event.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on October 31, 2002. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, OSTP, IAT, and the Region's PAO and SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 8:30 a.m. on November 1, 2002 .

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