

November 7, 2002

THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 11/12/02.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-067

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

Harrington Geotechnical Engineering
Orange, California
License No.: CA 5657
California Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On November 7, 2002, the California Radiation Health Branch (the Branch) notified NRC's Operations Center of the reported theft of a portable moisture/density gauge.

At 11:15 a.m. (PST) on November 6, 2002, the Branch received notification of the theft of the gauge from Harrington Geotechnical Engineering, a California licensee. The licensee reported that the gauge had been stolen from the bed of the licensee's pickup truck sometime between 4:30 and 5:30 a.m. (PST) on November 6, 2002, while parked at a gauge operator's residence in an apartment complex in the city of Orange, California. The gauge was chained and locked in the back of the pickup truck. The gauge operator found the chain cut and gauge missing when he returned to his truck. The gauge is a Campbell Pacific Nuclear Model MC 3, containing a nominal 0.37 gigabequerel (10 millicurie) source of cesium-137 and a nominal 1.1 gigabequerel (30 millicurie) source of americium-241:beryllium. The licensee promptly notified the local police and is offering a reward for the return of the gauge.

Region IV received initial notification of this occurrence electronically from NRC's Operations Center at 1:30 p.m. (CST) on November 7, 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 4:00 p.m. (CST) on November 7, 2002.

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