November 27, 2002

THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 11/28/02.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-072

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
Goodson and Associates
Denver, CO
License No.: 441-01
Colorado Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification
___ Notification of Unusual Event
___ Alert
___ Site Area Emergency
___ General Emergency
_X_ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: STOLEN GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On November 25, 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 November 24, 2002, the Department received notification of the theft of the gauge from Goodson and Associates, a Colorado licensee. The licensee reported that the gauge had been stolen at approximately 3:45 p.m. (MST) on November 24, 2002, from the open bed of a pickup truck while parked across the street from a residence in Denver, Colorado. The gauge user reported that he heard a noise outside his apartment and saw the gauge being stolen from the back of the truck. The gauge was locked in its transportation case and secured to the bed of the pickup truck with a chain. The user found the handle of the transportation case still secured to the bed of the truck with the chain. The gauge is a Troxler Electronic Laboratories Model 3430 (Serial No. 22804), 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 initially received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on November 25, 2002, at 3:00 p.m. (CST). 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 12:45 p.m.(CST) on November 27, 2002.

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