

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-080

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

Lor Geotechnical Group
Riverside, California
License No.: CA 5459-33
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 December 30, 2002, the California Radiation Health Branch (the Branch) notified NRC's Operations Center of the theft of a portable gauge containing 0.37 gigabequerel (10 millicurie) of Cesium-137 and 1.47 gigabequerel (40 millicurie) of americium-241:beryllium.

Lor Geotechnical Group, a California licensee, reported the theft of a Humbolt Model HSI5001P (Serial No. 838) moisture/density gauge to the Branch on December 30, 2002. The licensee reported that the gauge was stolen from a gauge operator's truck while parked at his residence in Redlands, California. On Saturday, December 28, 2002, the operator took the gauge to his residence after performing a job. The employee reported that the gauge was chained and locked on the back of his truck. On Monday morning, the employee noticed that the gauge, chains, and lock were missing from the back of the truck. He reported the theft to the licensee's radiation safety officer (RSO). The RSO notified the branch and the local police. The licensee plans to post a notice in the local newspapers offering a reward for the return of the gauge.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on December 30, 2002. Region IV has informed Mexico, NMSS, OEDO, STP, IAT, and Region IV's SLO.

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