

January 7, 2003

THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 1/9/03.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-001

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

Construction Inspection and Testing
Tempe, Arizona
License No.: 7-98
Arizona Agreement State Licensee

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On January 6, 2003, the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency (the Agency) notified NRC's Operations Center of the reported theft of a portable moisture/density gauge.

At approximately 7:30 a.m on January 6, 2003, the Agency received notification of the theft of a portable gauge from Construction Inspection and Testing, an Arizona licensee. The licensee reported that a Troxler Model 3440 (Serial No. 30391) moisture/density gauge had been stolen from the bed of the pickup while parked at a private residence in Glendale, Arizona. The gauge had been secured to the bed of the truck using a locked chain. The lock was cut and the gauge was removed from the transportation case. The gauge contained 0.3 gigabequerel (8 millicuries) of Cesium-137 and 1.5 gigabequerel (40 millicuries) of americium-241 beryllium. The licensee issued a press release and offered a monetary reward for return of the gauge. The licensee promptly notified the local police department. The licensee and the Agency are continuing to investigate this event.

The Agency informed Mexico, the FBI, and the States of Colorado, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, and California.

Region IV received initial notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on January 6, 2003. Region IV has informed the OEDO, NMSS, OSTP, IAT and the Region's PAO and SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 10:00 a.m. on January 7, 2003.

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