

This Event is not for public disclosure per Agreement State Request until January 21, 2003
January 17, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-003

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

Geotech Engineering and Testing
Houston, TX
License No.: L03923-002
Texas 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 17, 2003, the Texas Department of Health (the Department) notified NRC's Operations Center of the reported theft of a portable moisture/density gauge.

On January 16, 2003, the Department received notification of the theft of the gauge from Geotech Engineering and Testing, a Texas licensee. The licensee reported that the gauge and case had been stolen from the back of a company vehicle while parked at a construction site in Houston, Texas. The chain and lock were still attached to the truck. The construction site was at a Houston Metro Station in downtown Houston. The gauge is a Troxler Electronic Laboratories Model 3411-B (Serial No. 20098), containing a 0.29 gigabequerel (8 millicurie) source of cesium-137 (Serial No. 751355) and a 1.48 gigabequerel (40 millicurie) source of americium-241:beryllium (Serial No. 4715582). The licensee 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 January 17, 2003, at 11:45 a.m. (CST). Region IV has informed NMSS, OEDO, STP, IAT, PAO, SLO, and Mexico.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 2:00 p.m. (CST) on January 17, 2003.

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