

January 21, 2003

***THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 1/23/03.***

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-004

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**

Consolidated Engineering  
San Francisco, California  
License No.: 3250-01  
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 January 20, 2003, the California Radiation Health Branch (the Branch) notified NRC's Operations Center of the theft of a portable gauge containing nominally 0.37 gigabequerel (10 millicurie) of cesium-137 and 1.47 gigabequerel (40 millicurie) of americium-241:beryllium.

Consolidated Engineering, a California licensee, reported the theft of a Campbell Pacific Nuclear Model MC3 (Serial No. N310800424) moisture/density gauge to the Branch at approximately 4:00 p.m. (PST) on January 19, 2003. The licensee reported that the gauge was stolen from a vehicle parked at a private residence in San Francisco, California during the night of January 18. The licensee reported that the gauge was inside a car, covered with a blanket. The gauge and transportation case were removed through a broken car window. The licensee promptly notified the local police. The police found the empty transportation case in the street approximately one mile from the residence. The licensee plans to offer a monetary reward for the return of the gauge. The Branch is continuing to investigate the event.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on January 20, 2003. Region IV has informed the OEDO, NMSS, OSTP, IAT and the Region's SLO and PAO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 11:00 a.m. (CST) on January 21, 2003.

CONTACTS: Vivian Campbell      Gail Good  
                  817-860-8143            817-860-8258