

March 11, 2003

***THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 3/13/03.***

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-016

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**

Professional Services Industries  
Houston, TX  
License No.: L04942-000  
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 March 10, 2003, the Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control (the Bureau) notified NRC's Operations Center that a portable moisture/density gauge had been reported stolen.

On March 8, 2003, the Bureau received notification of the theft of the gauge from Professional Services Industries, a Texas licensee. The licensee reported that the gauge had been stolen from the back of a company vehicle while parked at Texas Medical Center construction site located at 2450 Holcomb, Houston, Texas at approximately 12:45 p.m. (CST) on Saturday, March 8, 2003. The gauge is a Troxler Electronic Laboratories Model 3430 (Serial No. 27095), containing a nominal 0.29 gigabequerel (8 millicurie) source of cesium-137 and a nominal 1.48 gigabequerel (40 millicurie) source of americium-241:beryllium. The licensee promptly notified the local police and offered a monetary reward for the return of the gauge.

On March 11, 2003, the Bureau was notified of the recovery of the gauge by the licensee. The gauge was recovered in its locked transportation case and appeared to be in good condition. The licensee plans to conduct a leak test and a complete functional test on the gauge prior to returning it to service. The Department is continuing to investigate this event.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on March 10, 2003, at 3:00 p.m. (CST). Region IV has informed NMSS, OEDO, OSTP, IAT and the Region's PAO and SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 11:00 a.m. on March 11, 2003.

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