

*This Event is not for public disclosure per Agreement State Request until March 26, 2003*

March 24, 2003

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-019**

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**

Law Engineering & Environmental Services  
2200 Gravel Drive  
Fort Worth, Texas  
License No.: L05490-000  
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 21, 2003, the Texas Department of Health (the Department) notified NRC's Operations Center of the reported theft of a portable moisture/density gauge.

On March 21, 2003, the Department received notification of the theft of the gauge from Law Engineering and Environmental Services, a Texas licensee. The licensee reported that a gauge operator stopped at his home enroute to the gauge storage location in Fort Worth. The operator was at his residence in White Settlement, Texas, from 3:00 a.m. to 3:40 a.m. Before departing from his residence, he noted that the gauge, lock, and chain were missing from his company truck. The gauge is a Troxler Electronic Laboratories Model 3411 (Serial No. 10732), containing a 0.30 gigabequerel (8 millicurie) source of cesium-137 (Serial No. 40-8208) and a 1.48 gigabequerel (40 millicurie) source of americium-241:beryllium (Serial No. 46-2134). The White Settlement Police Department was notified of the theft. The Department is continuing to investigate this event. There has been no media interest at this time.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on March 21, 2003. Region IV has informed NMSS, OEDO, STP, IAT, Mexico, and Region IV's PAO and SLO. The Department notified the States of Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma, as well as Mexico.

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