

April 2, 2003

THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 04/4/03.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-020

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

CTL/Thompson Texas, LLC
Dallas, Texas
License No.: L04900-001
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 April 1, 2003, the Texas Department of Health (the Department) notified NRC's Operations Center of the reported theft of a portable moisture/density gauge.

On April 1, 2003, the Department received notification of the theft of the gauge from CTL/Thompson Texas, LLC, a Texas licensee. The licensee reported that at approximately 11:20 p.m. on March 31, 2003, the gauge operator stopped by the company office to complete paperwork after working his shift. The operator returned to his vehicle at approximately 11:40 p.m. and discovered the portable gauge was missing. The operator found that the chain securing the transportation case had been cut. The operator also found a piece of the transportation case lock in the bed of the truck. However, he noted that the only items missing from the bed of the truck were the gauge and transportation case. The gauge is a CPN International, Inc. Model MC1-DR (Serial No. MD0129983), containing a 0.37 gigabequerel (10 millicurie) source of cesium-137 (Serial No. 2870) and a 1.85 gigabequerel (50 millicurie) source of americium-241:beryllium (Serial No. 0992).

The licensee promptly notified the local police of the theft. The State has informed Mexico and the States of Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. The State also informed the device manufacturer and the FBI. There has been no media interest at this time. The State and the licensee are continuing to investigate this event.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center at 3:00 p.m. (CST) on April 1, 2003. Region IV has informed NMSS, OEDO, OSTP, IAT and the Region's SLO and PAO. The Region's SLO will inform Mexico.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 7:30 a.m. on April 2, 2003.

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