

February 21, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-02-038A

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 III staff on this date.

Facility

**Anderson Engineering, Inc.
Springfield, MO**

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event

Alert

Site Area Emergency

General Emergency

Not Applicable

License No. 21-00943-03

SUBJECT: RECOVERY OF STOLEN MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE (UPDATE)

DESCRIPTION:

On February 17, 2003, licensee representatives were contacted by the Jasper County (Missouri) Sheriff's Department regarding the discovery of a Campbell Pacific Nuclear portable moisture/density gauge next to a dumpster in a mobile home park in Joplin, Missouri. The licensee had previously reported the gauge stolen (See PNO-III-02-038, September 18, 2002) from an employee's vehicle while parked at his home.

The Sheriff's Deputy contacted the device manufacturer (via a telephone number printed on the case), who was able to identify the licensee by the gauge serial number. The deputy returned the gauge to a licensee representative who responded to the scene.

The gauge did not appear to be damaged; however, the lock on the case (which had been affixed at the time of the theft) was missing and there was evidence that the gauge had been removed from its case. An end access panel on the gauge and the scaler on the gauge's electronics package had been removed. The sealed sources (containing cesium-137, [REDACTED] and americium-241, [REDACTED]) did not appear damaged. The licensee performed surveys of the gauge and confirmed that the sealed sources were contained in their safe (shielded) position. The licensee is in the process of collecting leak test samples to verify the integrity of the sources.

The State of Missouri has been notified.

The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with the licensee and is current as of 8:00 a.m. (CST), February 21, 2003.

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