RI - DNMS Licensee Event Report
Disposition

Licensee: Ponce I&M Engineering Lab, Inc.

Event Description: Stolen Nuclear Gauge

License No: 52-24918-02 | Docket No: 03032940 | MLER-RI: 2008-010

Event Date: 04/03/08 | Report Date: 04/03/08 | HQ Ops Event #: 44117

1. REPORTING REQUIREMENT

- [ ] 10 CFR 20.1906 Package Contamination
- [x] 10 CFR 20.2201 Theft or Loss
- [ ] 10 CFR 20.2203 30 Day Report
- [ ] Other
- [ ] 10 CFR 30.50 Report
- [ ] 10 CFR 35.3045 Medical Event
- [ ] License Condition

2. REGION I RESPONSE

- [ ] Immediate Site Inspection — Inspector/Date
- [ ] Special Inspection — Inspector/Date
- [x] Telephone Inquiry — Inspector/Date: Lodhi / 4/7/08
- [ ] Preliminary Notification/Report
- [x] Information Entered in RI Log
- [ ] Report Referred To:
- [ ] Daily Report
- [x] Review at Next Inspection

3. REPORT EVALUATION

- [✓] Description of Event
- [✓] Levels of RAM Involved
- [✓] Cause of Event
- [✓] Corrective Actions
- [ ] Calculations Adequate
- [ ] Additional Information Requested from Licensee

4. MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE 8.3 EVALUATION N/A

- [ ] Release w/Exposure > Limits
- [ ] Repeated Inadequate Control
- [ ] Exposure 5x Limits
- [ ] Potential Fatality
- [ ] Deliberate Misuse w/Exposure > Limits
- [ ] Pkging Failure>10 rads/hr or Contamination>1000x Limits
- [ ] Large# Indivs w/Exp>Limits or Medical Deterministic Effects
- [ ] Unique Circumstances or Safeguards Concerns

If any of the above are involved:

- [ ] Considered Need for IIT
- [ ] Considered Need for AIT

Decision/Made By/Date:

5. MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE 8.10 EVALUATION (additional evaluation for medical events only) N/A

- [ ] Timeliness - Inspection Meets Requirements (5 days for overdose / 10 days for underdose)
- [ ] Medical Consultant Used-Name of Consultant/Date of Report:
- [ ] Medical Consultant Determined Event Directly Contributed to Fatality
- [ ] Device Failure with Possible Adverse Generic Implications
- [ ] HQ or Contractor Support Required to Evaluate Consequences

6. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR COMMENTS

Review the event during next routine Inspection

☐ Non-Public — Inspector Signauture: [signature] Date: 4-15-08

☒ Public-SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE — Branch Chief Initials: Marie Miller Date: 4-15-08

Ponce I & M Engineering Laboratory, Inc.

April 11, 2008

Sattar Lodhi, Ph.D.
Materials Security and Industrial Branch
Region I, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

pim

RE: REPORT OF STOLEN NUCLEAR GAUGE INCIDENT:
PIM ENGINEERING LABORATORY, INC.
10 CFR 20.2201

Dear Doctor Lodhi:

The following is to summarize the events surrounding the theft and recovery of one of our nuclear gauges, as they took place from April 3, 2008 to April 5, 2008. Previous written reports were issued to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Headquarters Operations Center (Attention Mr. Howie Crouch) under the event notification number 44117.

AASHTO R18
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A field density-moisture gauge containing regulated radioactive material was stolen as part of a vehicle theft that was detected at 6:15AM (ET) of April 3, 2008. The gauge and vehicle are owned by the NRC Licensee, PIM Engineering Laboratory, Inc. (License No. 52-24908-02).

The event took place at the Buen Samaritano Street (State Road PR-880), Suchville Sector of the Municipality of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. The gauge was locked in place at the bed of a single cab, white, two (2) door pick-up, Ford Ranger 1996 with PR Plate 557-167. The gauge and vehicle were operated by an authorized Licensee employee who resides in Suchville Park, an apartment complex which is adjacent to the Buen Samaritano Street. The employee is assigned to a remote location project located in the San Juan Metropolitan Area (Licensee headquarters are at the Coto Laurel Ward, Municipality of Ponce, Puerto Rico).

US Army Corps of Engineers
Validated by the US Army Corps of Engineers

The source and activity of the subject stolen gauge are as follows:

Source:	Activity:
AmBe 241	50 mCi
Cs 137	10 mCi

The gauge was last leak tested on October 15, 2007, and authorized for use.

The gauge was stored inside a steel, non removable case box which was attached to the vehicle's chassis. The steel case accounted with two (2) independent padlocks. Inside the steel case, the gauge was stored in its orange transportation container

which also accounted with a single, independent padlock. The gauge itself was stored at the locked position.

The event was notified to the Puerto Rico State Police, Juan Domingo Station in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. Agent Carmen Nezcano (Badge 28450) filed the theft report assigning number 2008-07-232-2248 to the complaint.

A notification to the State Police Headquarters in San Juan, Puerto Rico was issued on April 3, 2008 as an added information propagation tool. Furthermore, the event was informed to the local press via email. Press reports were given between April 3, 2008 and April 4, 2008 by several radio stations and by at least one (1) TV station (Univision). News articles were also published on April 4, 2008 in the El Nuevo Día daily newspaper and webpage.

On April 5, 2008 at about 4:00AM (ET), we were notified by the State Police Department that the equipment was recovered as it was found at the roadside of PR-1 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Minutes later, an authorized Licensee employee assumed the custody of the gauge.

The contents of the gauge and its orange transportation container were unaltered. The case still accounted with its original padlock. The contents of the container and the gauge itself were as last stored. A leak test to verify radioactive exposure criteria was completed on April 5, 2008.

No information regarding exposure of individuals to radiation was available, although considering the conditions of the container and the gauge, the equipment was kept and stored at the lock mode.

A full staff meeting was completed on April 7, 2008. The undersigner, as Radiation Safety Officer, conducted the procedures which included a summary of the events that took place, a review of the official procedures and Firm policies regarding radiation safety and nuclear gauge use, and a discussion of alternatives to reduce the possibility of future theft. Upon conclusion, the following measures will be adopted:

1. Anti-theft devices will be installed in all vehicles authorized to transport nuclear gauges. These devices may include one or more of the following: alarm system, wheel locks and/or pedal locks.

2. A registry of storage locations of all personnel currently working at remote project locations will be kept and maintain including pictures of the storage area/vehicle parking.

3. Technical and economic proposals will be requested to local and US based providers of vehicle tracking systems using GPS. Final consideration to the installation of such devices will be completed during a management meeting were all proposals will be discussed.

This concludes our report presentation to the NRC, as specified in 10 CFR 20.2201. If questions or comments please call José L. Irizarry-Rosa, MCE, PE, Radiation Safety Officer at 787-848-2075, 787-450-6090 at your earliest convenience.

Cordially,

José L. Irizarry-Rosa, MCE, PE
President, Radiation Safety Officer

Annex: Copy of Initial Notification to NRC's Headquarters Operations Center
Copy of Gauge Recovery Notification to NRC's Headquarters Operations Center
Copy of Notification to State Police
Copy of Notification to Local Press
Copy of News Articles (El Nuevo Día)

Ponce I & M Engineering Laboratory, Inc.

April 3, 2008

Mr. José M. Díaz-Vélez, Health Physicist
Region II, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Suite 23T85
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8931

pim

RE: NOTIFICATION OF STOLEN NUCLEAR GAUGE: MODEL CPN MC-1DR-P (SERIAL NUMBER: 60703285)

Dear Mister Díaz-Vélez:

The following is to confirm the events already notified to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Headquarters Operations Center at 8:23AM (ET) of April 3, 2008. The Event Notification Number is 44117.

A field density-moisture gauge containing regulated radioactive material was stolen as part of a vehicle theft that was detected at 6:15AM (ET) of April 3, 2008. The gauge and vehicle are owned by the NRC Licensee, Ponce I & M Engineering Laboratory, Inc. (License No. 52-24908-02).

AASHTO R18
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The event took place at the Buen Samaritano Street (State Road PR-880), Suchville Sector of the Municipality of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. The gauge was locked in place at the bed of a single cab, white, two (2) door pick-up, Ford Ranger 1996 with PR Plate 557-167. The gauge and vehicle were operated by an authorized Licensee employee who resides in Suchville Park, an apartment complex which is adjacent to the Buen Samaritano Street. The employee is assigned to a remote location project located in the San Juan Metropolitan Area (Licensee headquarters are at the Coto Laurel Ward, Municipality of Ponce, Puerto Rico).

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US Army Corps of Engineers
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The gauge was stored inside a steel, non removable case box which was attached to the vehicle's chassis. The steel case accounted with two (2) independent padlocks. Inside the steel case, the gauge was stored in its orange transportation container which also accounted with a single, independent padlock. The gauge itself was stored at the locked position.

9 San Cristóbal Avenue, P.O. Box 801211, Coto Laurel, Puerto Rico 00780-1211

Telephone (787) 848-2075 Fax (787) 848-1562 Email: jlipim@jlipim.com

At this time, the event was notified to the Puerto Rico State Police, Juan Domingo Station in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. Agent Carmen Mezcano (Badge 28450) filled the theft report assigning number 2008-07-232-2248 to the complaint.

A notification with contents similar to those included in this document will be issued to the State Police Headquarters in San Juan, Puerto Rico as an added information propagation tool.

Please refer to the following photo exhibits that describe a similar company vehicle with company labels, storage means and nuclear gauge.

This concludes our notification of this event to the NRC. If questions or comments please call José L. Irizarry-Rosa, MCE, PE, Radiation Safety Officer at 787-848-2075, 787-450-6090 at your earliest convenience.

Cordially,

José L. Irizarry-Rosa, MCE, PE
President, Radiation Safety Officer

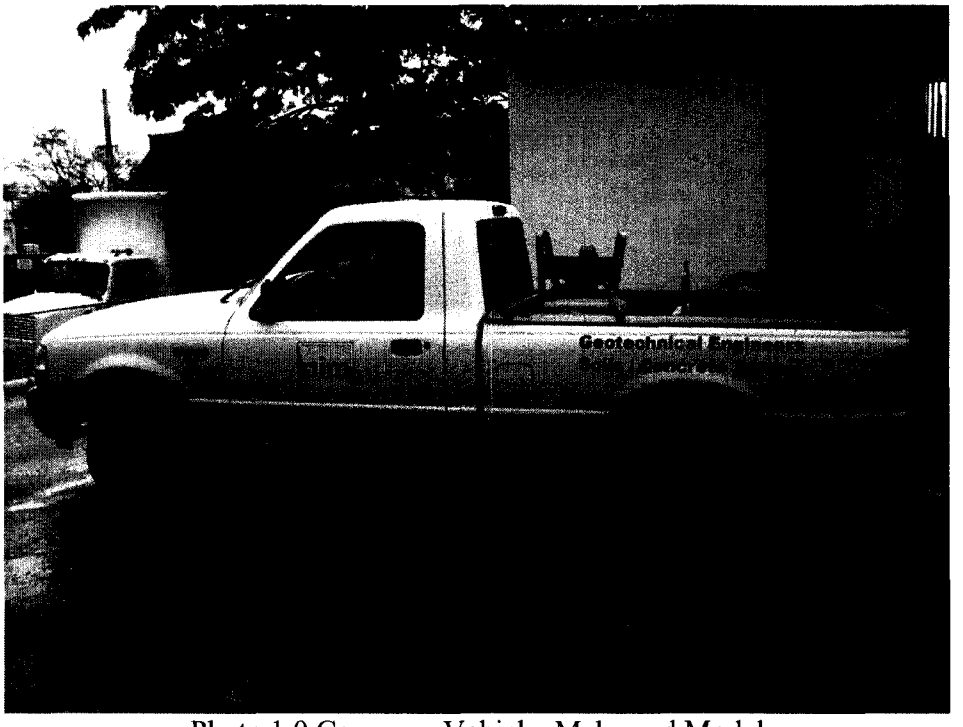

Photo 1.0 Company Vehicle, Make and Model

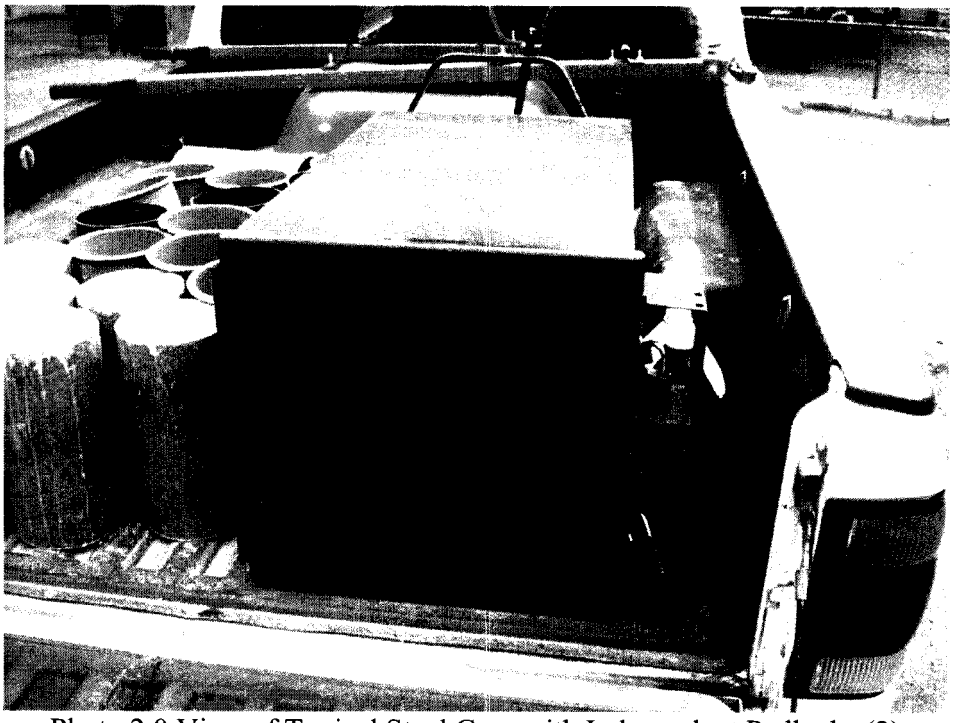

Photo 2.0 View of Typical Steel Case with Independent Padlocks (2)

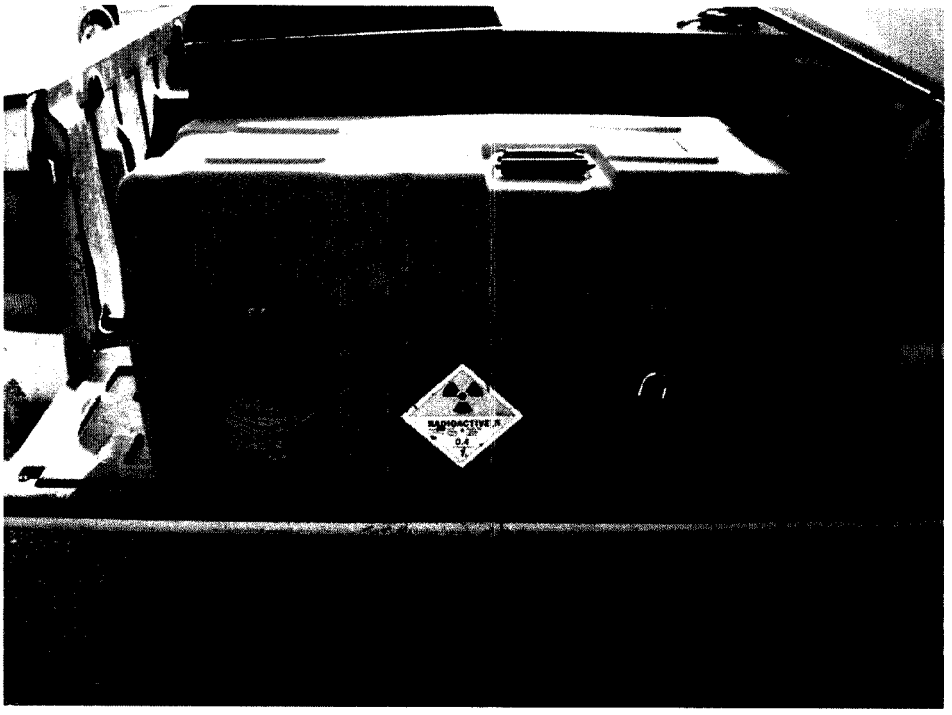

Photo 3.0 View of Orange Transportation Container with Single Padlock

Photo 4.0 View of Typical Gauge

Ponce I & M Engineering Laboratory, Inc.

3 de abril de 2008

Insp. Francisco Rodríguez Ortiz **FAX 787-723-9222**
Negociado de Vehículos Hurtados de San Juan
Policía de Puerto Rico

RE: NOTIFICACION DE HURTO DE VEHICULO Y MAQUINA NUCLEAR DE DENSIDAD / HUMEDAD EN SUELOS (MODELO CPN MC-1DR-P, NUMERO DE SERIE: 60703285)

Estimado inspector Rodríguez Ortiz:

La siguiente es para notificar el hurto de un vehículo Ford Ranger 1996, Color Blanco, con Tablilla 557-167. Este evento se detectó a eso de las 6:15AM de hoy, 3 de abril de 2008, por uno de nuestros empleados y se procedió a reportar el incidente en el Cuartel de Juan Domingo ubicado en el Municipio de Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. Allí se generó por la Agente Carmen Nezcano (Placa 28450) la querella número 2008-07-232-2248.

El vehículo estaba estacionado frente al complejo de apartamentos Suchville Park, en la calle Buen Samaritano, Carretera Estatal PR-880, Municipio de Guaynabo, Puerto Rico.

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El vehículo almacenaba en su caja posterior una máquina que se utiliza para determinar la densidad y la humedad en los suelos. Esta utiliza elementos radiactivos regulados por la Comisión Reguladora Nuclear de los Estados Unidos. Las fuentes radioactivas y su actividad son las siguientes:

Fuente:	**Actividad:**
Americio (AmBe 241)	50 mCi
Cesio (Cs 137)	10 mCi

La máquina nuclear es manufacturada por la CPN, modelo MC-1 DR-P. Su número de serie es 60703285. Este instrumento se guarda en un contenedor plástico color anaranjado que mide cerca de 15-pulgadas de ancho por 15-de alto por 30-de largo. La máquina en sí consiste en una caja metálica también de color naranja que cuenta con un mango retractable de color negro.

US Army Corps of Engineers

Validated by the US Army Corps of Engineers

Las cantidades de material radioactivo en la máquina son pequeñas, y sus fuentes son encapsuladas en acero inoxidable. Al momento de los hechos, el instrumento estaba en su posición de seguro por lo que sus elementos radioactivos están resguardados.

Sin embargo, su hurto va en detrimento de la seguridad y salud del público. El mal uso, manipulación o intento de accesar el contenido del instrumento someterá a los individuos que así la manejen a una potencial exposición radiactiva. De igual forma,

el abandono, reuso y/o reciclaje de este instrumento y su contenido presenta riesgos ambientales significativos.

Agradecemos de antemano se proceda a difundir esta información entre los cuarteles estatales y municipales para tratar así de lograr el paradero de estos equipos, con particular énfasis en la máquina nuclear.

Estamos disponibles las 24-horas en los teléfonos de nuestra oficina, 787-848-2075, y en el celular 787-450-6090.

Cordialmente,

Ing. José L. Irizarry-Rosa, MCE, PE
Presidente, Oficial de Seguridad

Anexo: Se incluyen fotos de vehículos y equipos similares.

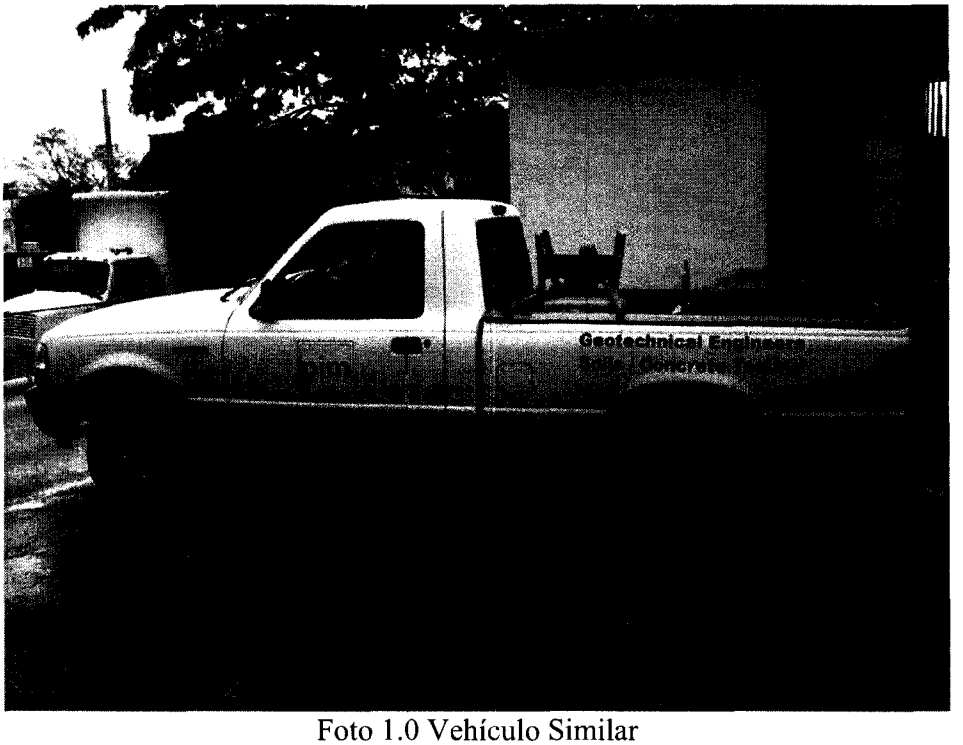


Foto 1.0 Vehículo Similar

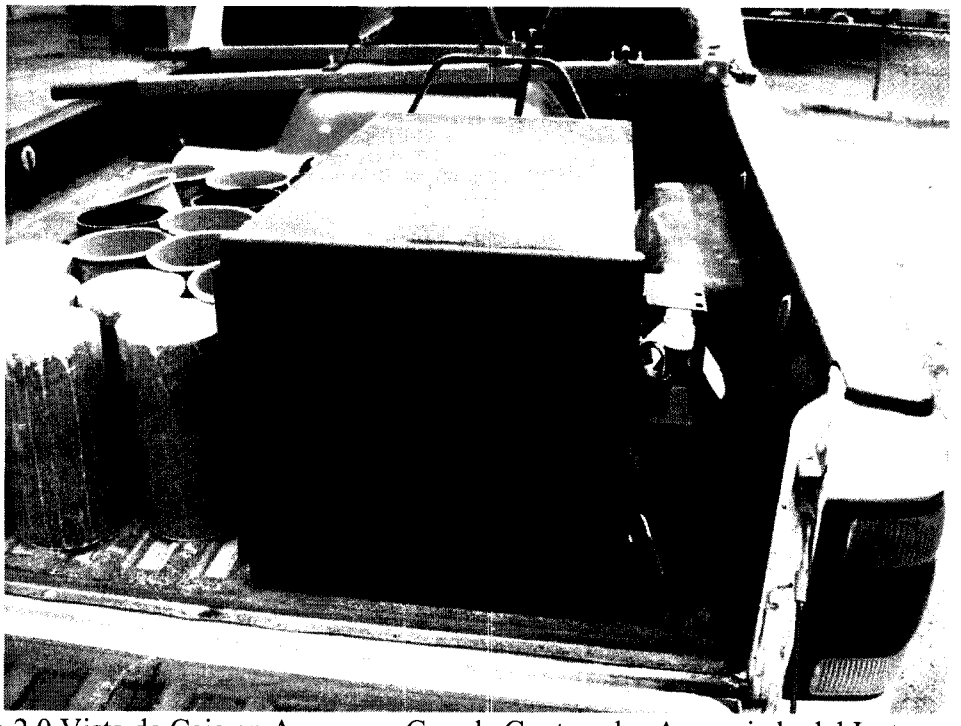


Foto 2.0 Vista de Caja en Acero que Guarda Contenedor Anaranjado del Instrumento

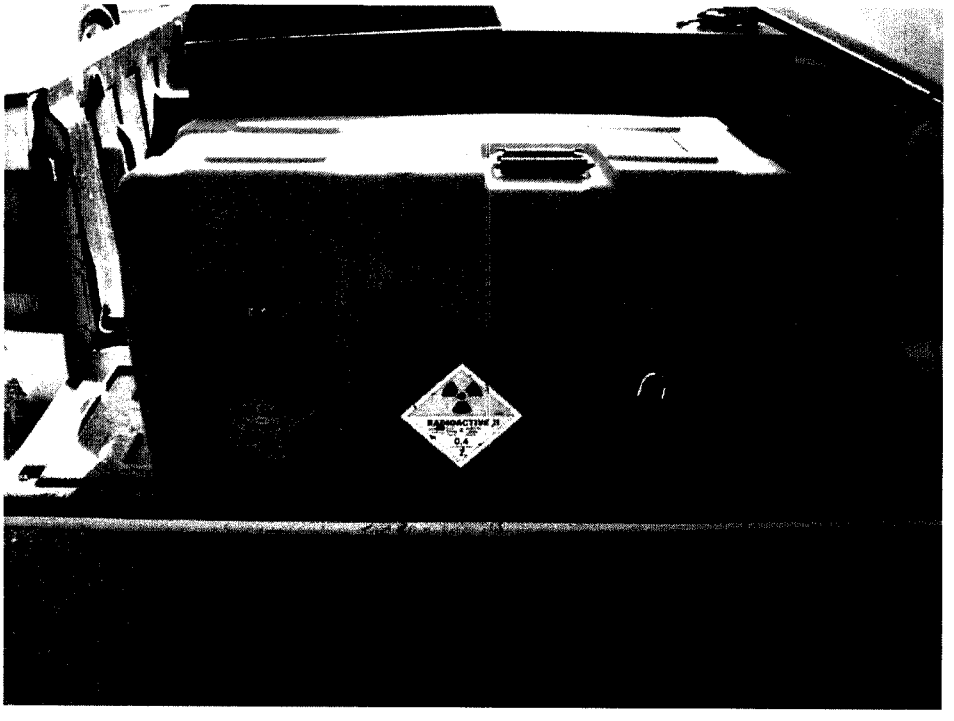


Foto 3.0 Vista de Caja Plástica Anaranjada que Almacena Instrumento Radioactivo

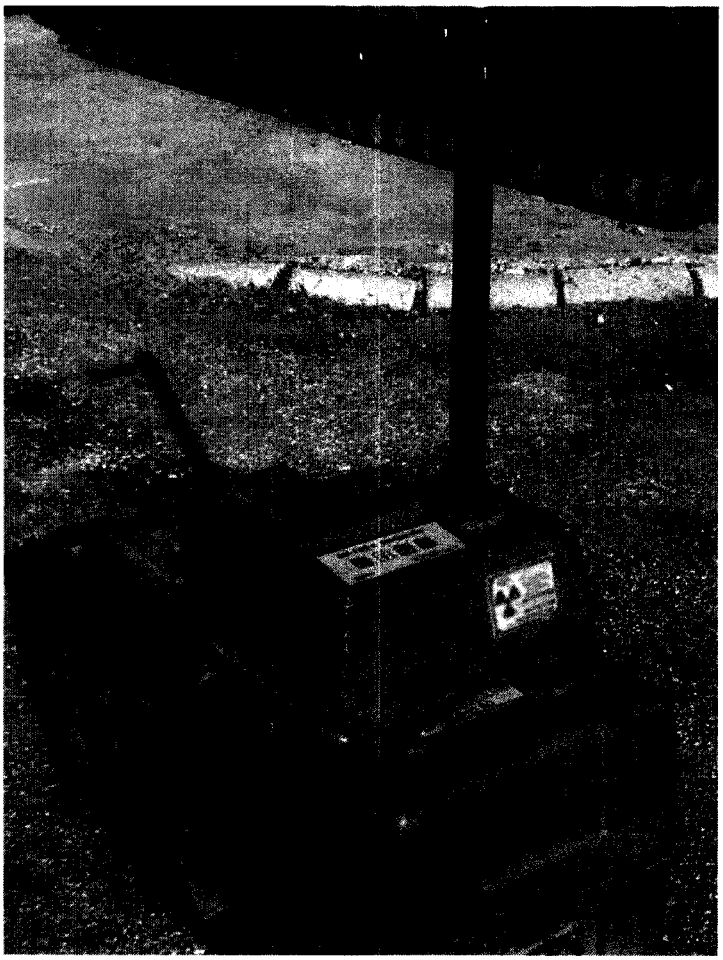


Foto 4.0 Vista de Instrumento para Medir Densidad y Humedad en Suelos

From: Jose L. Irizarry Rosa , MCE, PE
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 4:12 PM
To:
'dbonilla@univision.net'; 'ktoro@univision.net'; 'janet.toro@telemundo.com'; 'freddrick.lomba@nbc.com'; 'luz.ramos@wapa-tv.com'; 'notiuno630@gmail.com'; 'noticias@univisionradio.com'; 'noticias@wpabradio.com'; 'ojserrano@hotmail.com'; 'unonational@gmail.com'; 'noticias@radioisla1320.com'
Cc: Yadira Ayala, PE; 'yadijose@yahoo.com'; Raul Santiago; 'luisrodgar@hotmail.com'; 'Ricardo Ramos'
Subject: Notificación de Hurto de Vehículo y Máquina Nuclear para Determinar Densidad y Humedad en los Suelos

Estimados Amigos de la Prensa:

En el marco de la ola criminal que embate al País, nuestra compañía es una de las más recientes víctimas al reportarse durante la mañana de hoy el hurto de unos de nuestros vehículos de trabajo. El agravante a esta situación lo es el hecho que el vehículo almacenaba un instrumento nuclear de medición que se utiliza para determinar la densidad y humedad del suelo en proyectos de construcción. Este instrumento es regulado por la Comisión Reguladora Nuclear de los Estados Unidos por lo que contamos con la correspondiente licencia para su uso y transporte.

Como verán en la notificación enviada al Inspector Francisco Rodríguez Ortiz del Negociado de Vehículos Hurtados en San Juan, las cantidades y actividad de los elementos radioactivos son bajas. Sin embargo, el mal uso, manipulación o acceso al contenido del instrumento representa un riesgo público y ambiental. Por ello, exhortamos a aquellos que tengan acceso a este instrumento, a que lo entreguen voluntariamente a las Autoridades correspondientes.

Agradecemos su disponibilidad en comunicar esta situación al público.

Cordialmente,

José L. Irizarry-Rosa, MCE, PE
Presidente
PIM
Geotechnical Engineers / Soils and Construction Materials Testing

3009 San Cristóbal Ave.
Coto Laurel, PR 00780-2808
Tel 787-848-2075, Fax 787-848-1562
Email: jlipim@jlipim.com

Alertan sobre posible exposición radiactiva

Tras robo de auto que tiene ese material

POR GERARDO E. ALVARADO LEÓN
galvarado@elnuevodia.com

UN VEHÍCULO de estudios geológicos que llevaba en su parte posterior equipo con elementos radiactivos fue hurtado ayer en Guaynabo, y las autoridades urgen la cooperación para encontrarlo y evitar el riesgo de exposición. La máquina, utilizada para determinar la densidad y la humedad en los suelos, consiste en una caja metálica anaranjada que cuenta con un mango retractable negro. Ésta se guarda en un contenedor plástico, también anaranjado, que mide unas 15 pulgadas de ancho por 15 de alto y 30 de ancho.

Mientras, el vehículo es un Ford Ranger blanco de 1996, tablilla 557-167.

Según informó el ingeniero José Irizarry, de la compañía Geotechnical Engineering Consultants, dueños del material robado, las cantidades de material radiactivo en la máquina son pequeñas y sus fuentes (americio y cesio) están encapsuladas en acero inoxidable.

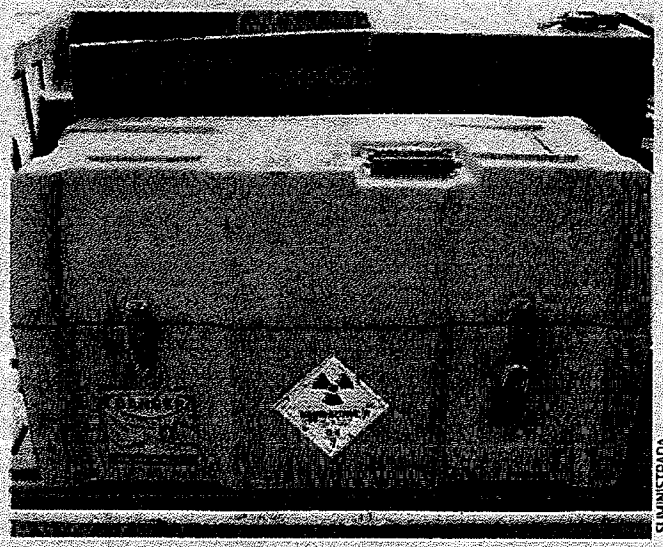
Agregó que, al momento del robo, la máquina estaba en su posición de seguro, por lo que no representa un riesgo para la salud de los ciudadanos.

Sin embargo, advirtió, el mal uso, manipulación o intento de accesar al contenido del instrumento someterá a quienes así lo hagan "a una potencial exposición radiactiva".

"De igual forma, el abandono, reúso y reciclaje de esta máquina y su contenido representa riesgos ambientales significativos", dijo Irizarry.

Aunque la radiactividad es un fenómeno natural, sus efectos sobre la salud dependen de la dosis absorbida por el organismo, la duración de la exposición y el tipo de tejido afectado. Podría causar irritación en ojos y piel, daño en los órganos reproductores, cáncer y hasta la muerte, en el peor de los casos.

Si posee información puede llamar al cuartel municipal o estatal más cercano, o a la compañía al (787) 848-2075.



SUMINISTRADA

UN contenedor como éste, con material radiactivo, iba a bordo de un vehículo hurtado ayer en Guaynabo.

Paciente afectado

POR MARGA PARÉS ARROYO
mpares@elnuevodia.com

CADA MES, unos 250 pacien
pital Universitario se han a
la avería de cuatro importa
nas diagnósticas de condi
trointestinales.

La situación se agravó
cuando los cuatro endos
gastroscopios y dos colono
dañaron a la misma vez.

"Esto es una situación gra
tan sólo se está jugando co
paciente, sino que nuest
miento se está afectando
sitamos completar cierta
estudios para poder aprend
con las exigencias de nuest
de adiestramiento y las ag
ladoras", denunció Abdiel
nista en su segundo año
miento de gastroenterologí

Manejamos el lujo como ningún otro

elnuevodia.com

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Viernes, 4 de Abril de 2008

Actualizado a las 8:05 AM

Noticias
PR Hoy

Alertan sobre posible exposición radiactiva

Tras robo de auto que tiene ese material.

Por Gerardo E. Alvarado León / galvarado@elnuevodia.com

Un vehículo de estudios geológicos que llevaba en su parte posterior equipo con elementos radiactivos fue hurtado ayer en Guaynabo, y las autoridades urgen la cooperación para encontrarlo y evitar el riesgo de exposición. La máquina, utilizada para determinar la densidad y la humedad en los suelos, consiste en una caja metálica anaranjada que cuenta con un mango retractable negro. Ésta se guarda en un contenedor plástico, también anaranjado, que mide unas 15 pulgadas de ancho por 15 de alto y 30 de ancho.

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sondeo

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Sin embargo, advirtió, el mal uso, manipulación o intento de accesar al contenido del instrumento someterá a quienes así lo hagan "a una potencial exposición radiactiva".

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Si posee información puede llamar al cuartel municipal o estatal más cercano, o a la compañía al (787) 848-2075.

Geotechnical Engineering Consultants

Geotechnical Instrumentation

Geo-Environmental Drilling

Ponce I & M Engineering Laboratory, Inc.

April 5, 2008

Mr. José M. Díaz-Vélez, Health Physicist
Region II, Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Suite 23T85
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8931

RE: NOTIFICATION OF RECOVERY OF STOLEN NUCLEAR GAUGE: MODEL CPN MC-1DR-P (SERIAL NUMBER: 60703285)

Dear Mister Díaz-Vélez:

The following is to confirm the events already notified to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Headquarters Operations Center at 8:15AM (ET) of April 5, 2008. The Event Notification Number is 44117.

We are pleased to inform the NRC that the field density-moisture gauge containing regulated radioactive material that was stolen as part of a vehicle theft on April 3, 2008 has been recovered and is now in our possession. We were notified by the State Police Department this morning at about 4:00AM (ET). As preliminarily informed by our technicians, the gauge was found by the police at the roadside of PR-1 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The contents of the gauge and its orange transportation container were unaltered. Anyway, we will conduct a leak test to verify radioactive exposure criteria.

This concludes our notification of this event to the NRC. If questions or comments please call José L. Irizarry-Rosa, MCE, PE, Radiation Safety Officer at 787-848-2075, 787-450-6090 at your earliest convenience.

Cordially,

José L. Irizarry-Rosa, MCE, PE
President, Radiation Safety Officer

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Validated by the US Army Corps of Engineers

3009 San Cristóbal Avenue, Coto Laurel, Puerto Rico 00780-2808

Telephone (787) 848-2075 Fax (787) 848-1562 Email: jlipim@jlipim.com

Other Nuclear Material	Event Number: 44117
Rep Org: PONZE I&M ENGINEERING LAB, INC. Licensee: PONZE I&M ENGINEERING LAB, INC. Region: 1 City: COTO LAUREL State: PR County: License #: 52-24908-02 Agreement: N Docket: NRC Notified By: JOSE IRIZARRY HQ OPS Officer: HOWIE CROUCH	Notification Date: 04/03/2008 Notification Time: 08:23 [ET] Event Date: 04/03/2008 Event Time: [EDT] Last Update Date: 04/05/2008
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 20.2201(a)(1)(i) - LOST/STOLEN LNM>1000X	Person (Organization): SAM HANSELL (R1) GREG MORELL (FSME) ILTAB (via e-mail) ()

This material event contains a "Less than Cat 3" level of radioactive material.

Event Text

STOLEN CPN MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE

The licensee Radiation Safety Officer reported that a company pick-up truck, that had a moisture density gauge stored in the bed, was stolen from in front of the apartment complex of the Authorized User. The apartment was located in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, which is remotely located from the licensee home office located in Coto Laurel, Puerto Rico.

The gauge is a CPN Model MC-1DRP, S/N 60703285, which contains 10 mCi of Cs-137 and 50 mCi of Am: Be. The gauge was last leak checked on October 15, 2007. The gauge was secured to the truck in a metal case mounted to the chassis of the truck and secured with the gauge lock, the gauge case lock and two locks on the metal storage case.

The stolen truck was a white 1996 Ford Ranger pick-up with Puerto Rican tag number 557-167.

The licensee notified the Puerto Rico State Police of the theft of the truck and gauge.

* * * UPDATE FROM JOSE IRIZARRY TO HOWIE CROUCH ON 04/05/08 @ 0809 HRS EDT * * *

Mr. Jose Irizarry, RSO for Ponze, reported that at 0430 EDT he was notified by Puerto Rico State Police that they had recovered the moisture density gauge in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The gauge was still locked in its storage container and was returned to the Authorized User.

Notified R1DO (Hansell), FSME (White) and ILTAB (via e-mail).

THIS MATERIAL EVENT CONTAINS A "LESS THAN CAT 3" LEVEL OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

Sources that are "Less than IAEA Category 3 sources," are either sources that are very unlikely to cause permanent injury to individuals or contain a very small amount of radioactive material that would not cause any permanent injury. Some of these sources, such as moisture density gauges or thickness gauges that are Category 4, the amount of unshielded radioactive material, if not safely managed or securely protected, could possibly - although it is unlikely - temporarily injure someone who handled it or were otherwise in contact with it, or who were close to it for a period of many weeks.