

Warren, Geoffrey

From: Bloomer, Tamara
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2009 1:50 PM
To: Warren, Geoffrey
Subject: FW: Investigation of Stolen Gauge Lic # 13-26345-01
Attachments: INVESTIGATION OF STOLEN NUCLEAR GAUGE Serial.doc

From: Ellet, Phil [mailto:PELLET@indot.IN.gov]
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2009 10:11 AM
To: Bloomer, Tamara
Cc: Lynch, James
Subject: FW: Investigation of Stolen Gauge Lic # 13-26345-01

Ms. Bloomer,

I am having problems with server because of size of the report and pictures referenced in the report. I am therefore sending only the report and will send the pictures under a separate cover.

From: Ellet, Phil
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2009 11:04 AM
To: 'tamara.bloomer@nrc.gov'
Cc: 'james.lynch@nrc.gov'
Subject: Investigation of Stolen Gauge Lic # 13-26345-01

Ms Bloomer,

Attached above is INDOT's investigation of the nuclear gauge that was stolen from an INDOT field operations trailer. This incident was reported to the operations center on October 13, 2009 via phone with the assistance of James Lynch from your office.

Please pass this on to others as you see fit.

We believe this closes this event. If you have any questions or concerns please call or email.

Thank You,
Phillip A. Ellet, PE
RSO
INDOT - Fort Wayne District

NRC Lic. # 13-26345-01

INVESTIGATION OF STOLEN NUCLEAR GAUGE

Date: October 13, 2009

Location: Field Office for Contract SR-30113

13730N SR 15, Milford, IN 46542

On October 13, 2009 gauge operator Carma Foster called shortly after 7:00 AM to report that the field office had been broken into and that the nuclear gauge Serial # 18635 was missing from its' locked closet. I instructed Ms Foster to call the Indiana State Police (ISP) to investigate the break-in as other equipment was also missing from the field office. As RSO I immediately contacted NRC reporting the stolen gauge. My call was to NRC region III and speaking with Jim Lynch and a representative from the NRC Headquarters.

After the ISP completed their investigation of the crime scene, information and description of the gauge was given to them and other local law enforcement. As RSO, I traveled to the field office to investigate and determine if any INDOT policies concerning nuclear gauge storage had been violated. The balance of this report states the findings.

When Ms Foster left the field office at 3:30 PM on Monday, October 12, 2009 the field office was locked and the closet containing the nuclear gauge was locked. The Gauge handle and case was reported to be locked. Keys to the field office were only in the personal possession of INDOT employees (2) and the contractor's foreman.

Entry to the field office was gained by smashing an 8 inch square door window and then reaching through the window to unlock office exterior door after unsuccessfully trying to pry the door open (ISP theory). Pictures of the forceful entry are attached. Once inside the thief (or thieves) stole multiply items including computers, water fountain, software, testing equipment, office equipment and supplies and the Troxler Gauge. Therefore it was obvious that the thieves were not after the gauge only.

The door to the gauge storage closet was ajar. The lock on the door knob was still locked. Upon further investigation it was discovered that door had been pried open. The prying action left marks on the door and the strike plate. Pictures of this evidence are attached.

The keys to the gauge handle and case are in to the possession of INDOT therefore we know that the thieves would only be able to open the case by using force.

ISP at the suggestion of the Town of Milford's Police made contact with an individual (potential suspect) to no avail.

INDOT personnel was instructed to travel about the community during the next few days observing potential dumping sites, i.e. streams and rivers, just in case the thieves disposed of the gauge in this manner.

UPDATE: On October 20, 2009 gauge operator Carma Foster called stating that the nuclear gauge was discovered under a semi-trailer parked on the premises. The gauge was not there on October 13. The gauge had been left in plain view. The gauge was secure in its case. The handle was padlocked in the locked position. The thief also returned another piece of equipment. Once again the ISP were called. They requested that the unit be allowed to be transported to the ISP Post at Bremen, IN for fingerprinting. This was allowed once proper bill of lading was prepared for them. They were instructed to double lock the gauge. Once the gauge case was fingerprinted the gauge was made available to INDOT. INDOT secured the gauge from ISP on October 28, 2009 at which time it was returned to the Fort Wayne District Office and placed into storage. The gauge was leak tested prior to being returned to storage. The results revealed no leakage.

Report Submitted by:

Phillip A. Ellet, PE

RSO