

# ATEC Associates of Virginia, Inc.



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US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555

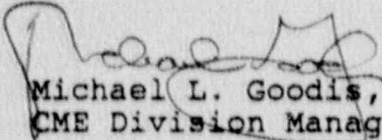
Re: License No. 45-16546-02

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 10 CFR 20.402(b), attached you will find a written report of the incident involving a temporarily missing soil density gauge.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to call us.

Sincerely,  
ATEC Associates of Virginia, Inc.

  
Michael L. Goodis, P.E.  
CME Division Manager

MLG:dhl:A053.ltr

cc: Written Report of Incident  
Chronology of Events

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DOCUMENTATION OF INCIDENT INVOLVING  
A TEMPORARILY MISSING SOIL DENSITY GAUGE

On the evening of Friday, September 21, 1990, an incident occurred when a Troxler Model 3411-B soil density gauge owned by ATEC Associates of Virginia, Inc. was left unattended by our employee, Mr. Clyde Beatty, and was subsequently relocated and secured by Mr. Dale Kight, of Parson's Management Consultants (PMC) representative. The incident occurred at Washington National Airport near hangars 8, 9, and 10. A description of the actions taken to recover the gauge is attached. The device contains the following radioactive material:

Cs-137	7.9 mCi	3/21/90
Am-241	40.0 mCi	3/21/90

The missing density gauge was returned to ATEC representatives by Mr. Dale Kight and Mr. Tim Kruppenbacher of PMC at 5:00 am on September 22, 1990. The gauge was secured in a locked cabinet in the PMC office from approximately 11:30 pm to 5:00 am. Mr. Kight is the RSO for PMC and is familiar with handling such devices, therefore, it would be safe to state that no individuals involved in the incident were exposed to hazardous levels of radiation.

The following is a detailed account of the events that took place that evening:

- 10:10pm - ATEC representative arrived on the jobsite at Washington National Airport to monitor placement of a control fill for the pipeline excavation at Hangar #8.
- 11:25pm - A density test was conducted with a Troxler 3411-B soil density gauge. The employee then left the density gauge unattended to return to his car to record the results, and move the car. The lock was placed and secured on the gauge.
- 11:40pm - PMC representative, Richard Oritz, requested another density test. Upon returning to the area where the density gauge was left, the gauge was then discovered missing.  
  
All available on-site employees from Donohoe, PMC and F&R were asked if they had seen anyone move the gauge. They stated they did not. The area was then searched to try and locate the gauge.
- 12:10pm - Richard Oritz notified the Airport Police and Mr. Dale Kight (PMC) of the incident. A report was completed by the Airport Police.
- 12:50pm - Mr. Beatty attempted to contact ATEC's RSO, John Cook. A message was left on his answering machine and his beeper. No response. (John Cook was out of town for the weekend.)
- 1:40am - ATEC's Division Manager, Mike Goodis, was telephoned and made aware of the situation. He requested Clyde to continue searching for the gauge until he arrived to the jobsite.
- 3:15am - Mr. Goodis arrived on the jobsite to evaluate the situation and to contact the NRC. The circumstances in which the gauge was removed were reviewed and the area was again searched with Mr. Beatty. The RSO from ATEC Chantilly was also not available to get in contact with.
- 4:00am - Mr. Goodis and Mr. Beatty visited Mr. Oritz to review the events of the evening.
- 4:15am - Mr. Dale Kight of PMC informed ATEC that he removed and secured the gauge. No calls to the NRC were made.
- 5:00am - The gauge was returned to ATEC. A report by ATEC of these events was requested by Mr. Tim Kruppenbacher.



The following are the immediate steps to be taken to prevent a situation like this from happening again, on this or any other project.

1. Post signs in the laboratory, include in all shipping packages and distribute to all employees, a list of names and telephone numbers of people to contact in an emergency situation with a soil density gauge.

ATEC Alexandria

RSO: John Cook

Home: 560-4521

Beeper: 507-7438

Manager: Mike Goodis

Home: 329-8296

Beeper: 507-7435

Car: 812-5395

ATEC Chantilly

Back-up RSO: Jim Barr

Home: (703) 430-4390

Beeper: 214-1148

RSO/Manager: Mike Pruitt

Home: (304) 725-0896

Car: 716-8887

ATEC Alexandria/Chantilly

District Manager: Tom Hiott

Home: 471-5338

Beeper: 507-7434

Car: 812-5394

2. Conduct a meeting with all employees to review procedures in transporting, handling and securing nuclear density gauges. Also, review procedures in reporting emergency situations. An outline of these procedures will be distributed to all employees.
3. Designate a backup RSO in both the Alexandria and Chantilly office, to respond to emergency situations when the primary RSO is unavailable.
4. Review reporting procedures for the primary and backup RSO's for emergency situations.

Since the circumstances surrounding the temporarily missing gauge were against company policy, it is felt that it will not be necessary to make any changes in the company policy.

ATEC Associates deeply regrets the incident that had occurred. We are aware of the potential risks involved in a situation like this, and are committed to upholding safety requirements to our employees and those on the jobsite.