

Date: June 16, 1994

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNI-9437

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 I staff on this date.

Facility:

Testwell Craig Laboratories
of Connecticut, Inc.
21-25 Henry Street
Bethel, Connecticut 06813-2418

Licensee Emergency Classification:

Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

Docket No.: 030-19151

License No.: 06-19720-01

Event No.: NONE

Event Location Code: MAT

SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENT INVOLVING A PORTABLE NUCLEAR DENSITY GAUGE

On June 16, 1994, the NRC Headquarters Operations Officer was notified by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Air Management, Radiation Section that an accident involving multiple vehicles, one carrying a portable nuclear density gauge occurred near Stamford, Connecticut. The Operations Officer notified the Region I Office of the incident. Region I contacted the State of Connecticut for more details on June 16, 1994. The accident occurred about 9:00 p.m., on Route 95 near Stamford, Connecticut. The Stamford Fire and Police Departments, along with the State of Connecticut, responded to the accident. Radiation measurements were taken of the trunk of the vehicle and did not exceed 1.5 millirem per hour. There was no apparent physical damage to the gauge, a Troxler Electronics Laboratories, Inc. Model 3411B containing sealed sources of approximately 8 millicuries of cesium-137 and 40 millicuries of americium-241. The State of Connecticut confiscated the gauge because the gauge was neither being transported to a temporary job site nor to the licensed place of storage and the driver stated that this was a normal practice. The State of Connecticut also reported that the gauge and its outer container were not locked during transport.

Region I contacted the licensee, who committed to retraining personnel in the requirements for keeping the gauge or outer container locked during transport and returning the gauge to the place of storage after the gauge's use at a temporary job site and ensuring that these requirements are met.

The State of Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection has been notified by the NRC. The Region I Office of Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media interest. This information is current as of 12:30 p.m., June 16, 1994.

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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-9437

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