

Date: November 9, 1992

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-92-67

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:

Massachusetts Department of  
Public Works  
99 Worcester Hills  
Wellesley, Massachusetts 02181  
Docket No.: 030-17520  
License No.: 20-19384-01  
Event No.: None  
Event Location Code: MAT

## Licensee Emergency Classification:

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

Subject: THEFT OF A TROXLER MOISTURE/DENSITY METER

On November 9, 1992, at 9:20 am, the licensee informed the Region I staff that a Troxler moisture/density gauge had been stolen from a temporary job site sometime between 4:00 pm on November 6, 1992, and 7:00 am on November 9, 1992. An employee used a Troxler Model No. 3411B moisture/density gauge at a temporary job site at 250 Front Street, Charlestown, Massachusetts and placed the gauge in a locked closet within a locked construction trailer on site about 4:00 pm on November 6, 1992. The employee noted that the gauge was missing from the construction trailer at 6:00 am on November 9, 1992 and that there was evidence of illegal entry.

The gauge was stored within a locked, bright yellow, plastic, rectangular container that measures approximately 22 inches by 44 inches by 12 inches. The container has a diamond-shaped radiation label which is yellow on the top and white on the bottom with a black fan-shaped design in the middle. There is also a label on the container with the words, "Troxler Model No. 3411B, Serial No. 18849, cesium-137 8 mCi, americium-241 40 mCi." The gauge is 14.5 inches by 9 inches by 7 inches tall with a handle extending 12.5 inches above the gauge. There is a computer keypad on the top of the gauge. The handle was locked into position and the keys are in the possession of the licensee.

The expected radiation levels with the sources in shielded position are 6.5 millirem per hour (mR/hr) on top of the gauge, 14.0 mR/hr on the sides of the gauge, 5.0 mR/hr on the back of the gauge near the handle, and 15.0 mR/hr in front of the gauge.

The expected radiation level of the rod with the cesium-137 source in the exposed position is 28 mR/hr at one foot.

The licensee has notified the police and given them a detailed description of the equipment and was in the process of issuing press releases so that the public could be informed.

The NRC will review the circumstances of the incident at the next inspection. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been informed.

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Licensee: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Reactor Licensees)

\*\* General list for sending PNs by FAX

Region I Form 83  
(Rev. June 1992)