

October 28, 1999

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE

PNO-IV-99-049

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 Region IV staff in Arlington, Texas on this date.

Facility

Gn Northern
Oregon Dept. Rad. Control
Gresham, Oregon
License No: ORE-90711

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: THEFT OF PORTABLE GAUGE

At 7:40 p.m. (EDT) on October 27, 1999, the Oregon Health Division, Radiation Protection Services (RPS) notified the NRC Operations Center of the theft of a portable gauge reported by an Oregon licensee. The theft was reported to RPS by telephone on October 27, 1999.

A representative of GN Northern (licensee) reported to RPS that a licensee employee noted at 8:00 p.m. (PDT) on October 26 that a portable gauge (Troxler Model 3430, Serial Number 23852) had been taken from its temporary storage location in the bed of a truck at an apartment complex in Gresham, Oregon. The gauge had been chained, in its transport case, to the open bed of a truck that was parked in the employee's apartment driveway while he was having dinner. The gauge contains a 1.63 gigabequerel (44 millicurie) americium-241 source and a 333 megabequerel (9 millicurie) cesium-137 source. The chain securing the gauge to the bed of the truck had been cut. The Gresham Police Department was notified of the theft. The RPS provided a description of the portable gauge to the police department.

Region IV received telephone notification of this event from the NRC Operations Center and coordinated this notification with the RPS. Region IV has informed NMSS, IAT, OSP and the RIV Regional EDO Coordinator. The State plans to issue a press release.

This information was discussed with the State of Oregon and is current as of 11:20 a.m. (CDT). October 28, 1999.

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