

October 27, 1999

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE

PNO-IV-99-044A

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.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Agreement State Licensee	Notification of Unusual Event
Miller Pacific Engineering Group	Alert
Santa Rosa, California	Site Area Emergency
License No: 5411-21	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: RECOVERY OF STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE (UPDATE)

This provides an update to a notification initially made on October 18, 1999, regarding the theft of a portable moisture density gauge from a California licensee. The NRC Operations Center was originally notified of the theft of the portable gauge by the California Radiologic Health Branch (CRHB) on October 18, 1999. On October 18, a representative of Miller Pacific Engineering Group (licensee) reported to CRHB that a licensee employee noted that a portable gauge (CPN Model MC-1DR) had been taken from its temporary storage location in the bed of a truck. The gauge contains a 1.48 gigabequerel (40 millicurie) americium-241 source and a 370 megabequerel (10 millicurie) cesium-137 source.

On October 26, 1999, the California Radiologic Health Branch (CRHB) notified Region IV that the portable gauge had been recovered. The licensee, with assistance from local law enforcement representatives, has recovered the gauge.

Region IV received telephone notification of the gauge recovery from the State of California and coordinated this notification with the CRHB. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, and OSP.

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