

October 29, 1999

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-99-050

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

Agreement State Licensee
Foree & Vann, Inc.
9013 N. 24th Ave.
Phoenix, Arizona 85021
License No: 7-263 (AZ)

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: THEFT OF PORTABLE MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE

At 5:00 p.m. (CDT) on October 28, 1999, the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency (ARRA) notified NRC's Region IV Office of the theft of a portable gauge in Glendale, Arizona. The theft was reported to ARRA by the licensee on October 28.

The Arizona licensee reported that sometime between 8:00 p.m. on October 27 and 5:45 a.m. (PDT) on October 28, a portable moisture density gauge (Troxler Model 3411B, Serial Number 12764) was stolen from its temporary storage location in the open bed of a truck. The gauge had been secured to the bed by a chain, and the chain was cut. The gauge contains a 1.85 gigabequerel (50 millicurie) americium-241 source and a 370 megabequerel (10 millicurie) cesium-137 source. The Glendale police have been notified of the theft.

ARRA issued a press release providing information about the gauge and noting that the licensee was offering a reward for return of the gauge. Information about the gauge was discussed during a local news broadcast last evening.

Region IV received notification of this event by facsimile transmittal from the State of Arizona. This information has been coordinated with ARRA. Region IV has informed the NRC Operations Center, NMSS, OSP, IAT, OPA and OEDO.

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