

November 10, 1999

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE** PNO-IV-99-053

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**

State Of Louisiana Licensee  
Barry L. Moore & Associates, Inc.  
2540 Wyandotte St.  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70805  
License No: LA 3545L01

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

Subject: STOLEN PORTABLE MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE

On November 10, 1999, the Louisiana State Police notified the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) that Barry L. Moore & Associates, Inc. (BMA), a LDEQ licensee had reported the theft of one of their portable nuclear gauges.

The licensee reported that a Campbell Pacific Nuclear, Model CPN-131, containing approximately 1,850 megabecquerels (50 millicuries) of americium-241 and approximately 370 megabecquerels (10 millicuries) of cesium-137, was stolen from the back of a licensee vehicle in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The licensee reported that the gauge was stored in its approved transportation container and was chained (locked) to the bed of the vehicle. After arriving at the licensee's facility at approximately 5:30 a.m. on November 10, a BMA gauge user observed that the chain securing the device had been cut and the gauge had been stolen. The gauge user stated that he had stopped on three separate occasions while in transport from his residence to the licensee's facility, but he did not notice that the gauge had been stolen until he arrived at BMA's facility. LDEQ is obtaining additional information and will continue to monitor the licensee's efforts to recover the device.

The State of Louisiana was informed of the event by the Louisiana State Police on the morning of November 10. LDEQ notified NRC Region IV at approximately 1:30 p.m. on November 10, 1999.

Region IV has informed OSP, NMSS and the I.A.T.

This information has been discussed with the State of Louisiana and is current as of 4:00 p.m. on November 10, 1999.

Contact: Mark Shaffer (817)860-8287  
Linda McLean (817)860-8116

19234

PDR I+E