

January 5, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-00-002

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> |
|-------------------------|--|
| State Of Texas Licensee | Notification of Unusual Event |
| Terra-Mar Inc. | Alert |
| Fort Worth, Texas | Site Area Emergency |
| | General Emergency |
| | X Not Applicable |

Subject: STOLEN PORTABLE MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE

On January 4, 2000, the Texas Bureau of Radiation Control (TBRC) notified the NRC Region IV office and the NRC Operations Center of the theft of a portable moisture density gauge from Terra-Mar Inc., a Texas Licensee. TBRC received notification of the theft which occurred on the afternoon of December 30, 1999.

The gauge is a Troxler Model 3411-B (Serial No. 10518) containing an americium-241/beryllium source (Serial No. 46-1940) of approximately 1,480 megabecquerels (40 millicuries) and a cesium-137 source (Serial No. 40-7844) of approximately 310.8 megabecquerels (8.4 millicuries). The gauge was last seen at a temporary job site in Fort Worth, Texas when it was used by one of the licensee's authorized users. The licensee employee, the company vehicle and the gauging device have not been seen since departing the job site between 4:00 and 4:30 p.m. on December 30, 1999.

The licensee believes the primary theft was for the truck during the holiday weekend. The theft has been reported to the Fort Worth Police Department and the Texas Department of Public Safety.

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

This information has been discussed with the State of Texas and is current as of 10:30 a.m., January 4, 2000.

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IEB

PDR I+E PNO-IV-00-002