

January 11, 2000

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE** PNO-IV-00-003

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.

<b><u>Facility</u></b>	<b><u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u></b>
State Of Texas	Notification of Unusual Event
Petra Technologies, Inc.	Alert
Houston, Texas	Site Area Emergency
License No: L05233	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: STOLEN PORTABLE MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE

On January 11, 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 Petra Technologies, Inc., a Texas licensee. TBRC received notification of the theft which occurred on the evening of January 9 or the morning of January 10, 2000.

The gauge is a Troxler Model 3430 (Serial No. 27239) containing an americium-241 beryllium source (Serial No. 47-23865) of approximately 1,480 megabecquerels (40 millicuries) and a cesium-137 source (Serial No. 750-976) of approximately 310.8 megabecquerels (8 millicuries). The gauge was last seen in the pickup truck, at a residence in Mesquite, Texas. The gauge was locked in the cab of a pickup truck. The gauge had been covered with a blanket or a coat in the truck cab. The Houston based Company employees had been working in East Ft. Worth, Texas. The State of Texas has listed this event as number 7561, for Texas License number L05233. The theft was reported to the Mesquite Fire Department in Mesquite, Texas.

Region IV has informed 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. (CDT) January 11, 2000.

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