

January 7, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-96-072B

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

Licensee Emergency Classification

B. J. Services Company, U.S.A.	Notification of Unusual Event
B. J. Services Company, U.S.A.	Alert
P.O. Box 4442	Site Area Emergency
Houston, Texas 77210	General Emergency
Dockets: 03019037 License No: 42-19649-01 X Not Applicable	

Subject: UPDATE ON MISSING NUCLEAR GAUGE CONTAINING CESIUM-137

On January 6, 1997, the licensee notified the Region IV office that the missing gauge had been recovered. A local citizen contacted licensee representatives in response to a press release issued on January 3, 1997, offering a reward for return of the gauge. The citizen found the gauge on December 20, 1996, at the on-ramp from Highway 50 to eastbound I-90 in Gillette, Wyoming, apparently shortly after it was lost. The citizen subsequently transported the gauge to his residence and placed it in the backyard. Upon recovering the gauge on January 5, 1997, the licensee noted only minor damage to an electrical connector. A leak test was performed and the licensee is performing an assessment of doses which may have been received by members of the general public (the local citizen) who handled the gauge.

Region IV will continue to monitor the licensee's response.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the licensee's radiation safety officer at approximately 10:00 a.m. (CST) on January 6, 1997. Region IV has informed NMSS.

The information herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 4:30 p.m. on January 6, 1997.

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