

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-06-004

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 the Region I staff on this date.

<b><u>Facility</u></b>	Philadelphia Fire Department Homeland Security/Counter Terrorism Force Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	<b><u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u></b>
		<input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event
		<input type="checkbox"/> Alert
		<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
		<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

Docket No.: N/A

License No.: N/A

**SUBJECT: IDENTIFICATION OF TROXLER DENSITY GAUGE CONTAINING RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL IN NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA**

On March 2, 2006, NRC Region I was notified by a member of the Homeland Security/Counter Terrorism Unit (Unit) of the Philadelphia Fire Department that the Philadelphia Water Department had located a yellow box containing a Troxler moisture and surface density gauge in a wooded area located on McNulty Road in Northeast Philadelphia. The Fire Department including the Unit responded to the site.

The Unit informed the NRC that markings on the yellow box indicated Troxler Model 3411B, serial number 9524. Unit staff indicated that the box was locked with a padlock and that a portable radiation analyzer indicated the presence of cesium-137. Unit staff also informed the NRC that they were going to take the Troxler gauge to the Fire Academy on Pennypacker Street in Northeast Philadelphia where it would be secured.

Region I staff contacted Troxler Electronic Laboratory to determine the owner of the gauge. Troxler indicated that the gauge had been sold to a company, Albuquerque Testing Labs in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1983. The Sealed Source and Device Registry Sheet for the Troxler Model 3411B gauge indicates that this gauge can contain approximately 9 millicuries of cesium-137 and approximately 44 millicuries of americium-241 in the form of sealed sources. Troxler had no recent information on the gauge, such as leak test results, or maintenance performed on the gauge.

Region I staff contacted the New Mexico Radiation Control Bureau and provided the manufacturers name and the model number and serial number of the gauge, as well as the name of the company provided by Troxler. The Bureau informed the NRC that it will provide assistance to the NRC and attempt to locate the owner of the gauge.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been notified. The Region I office of Public Affairs is prepared to respond to media inquires. This information is current as of 11:00 a.m., March 3, 2006.

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