

September 18, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-036

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 II staff (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

Facility

Fuller, Mossbarger Scott and May Engineers, Inc.
Lexington, KY
License No: KY 201-142-51 (Agreement State)

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: STOLEN PORTABLE MOISTURE-DENSITY GAUGE

On September 11, 2000, the Commonwealth of Kentucky reported that a Troxler Electronic Laboratories model 3440 portable moisture-density gauge (serial number 24606), containing 40 millicuries (mCi) of americium 241 and 8 mCi of cesium 137 had been stolen. Maximum radiation levels would be 13.2 millirem per hour on contact with the transport container and 0.6 millirem per hour at a distance of 3 feet.

The device was stolen sometime between midnight and 6:00 a.m., September 11, 2000, from the open bed of a pick up truck belonging to a licensee employee. The truck was parked in the driveway of the employee's residence in Lexington, Kentucky, at the time of the theft. The device was stored in its transport container and the container was chained and locked to the truck bed. The chain was reportedly cut with a hack saw. The licensee believes that the source rod was locked.

The licensee has notified local police. Licensee employees are searching the area to locate the gauge in the event it was abandoned. The Commonwealth of Kentucky does not believe that the licensee intends to issue a press release.

This information is current as of 4:30 p.m.

CONTACT: John Pelchat
(404) 562-4729

Jay Henson
(404) 562-4731