

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE** PNO-II-00-052

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**

US Cattle Corporation  
(A general licensee)  
Winona, Mississippi  
Dockets:

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

Subject: LOST STRONTIUM-90 SOURCE

The Mississippi Division of Radiological Health notified NRC of a lost strontium-90 source. Mississippi records show that the source was in a generally licensed device distributed to the licensee on November 30, 1984, and containing 25 millicuries of strontium-90. The device is a thickness gauge used to measure the thickness of plastic film and manufactured by the Omart Corporation, gauge type WebART/1000, serial number 10133.

The licensee, a subsidiary of U.S. Corrulite Corporation, went out of business and all assets were sold to Southern Diversified Industries, Inc. of Baldwin, Mississippi in 1999. Mississippi became aware of the transfer when the fee invoice was returned with a hand written note that all operations by the Corrulite Corporation had been discontinued. The State subsequently learned that the equipment sold to Southern Diversified may have been sent to a Scrap Metal dealer. The State conducted a survey of the scrap dealer facility on November 28, 2000, but the source/device could not be found. The State is continuing their investigation into the lost source.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Mississippi Division of Radiological Health, at 10:22 a.m., on Tuesday, December 5, 2000. The information presented herein has been discussed with the Mississippi Division of Radiological Health and is current as of 3:00 p.m., on Tuesday, December 5, 2000.

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