

May 31, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-016A

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

S&ME
(An Agreement State Licensee)
Greensboro, NC
License: 041-0922-1

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: RECOVERED PORTABLE GAUGE

This is to update the PNO-II-016 issued on May 16, 2001 concerning the theft or loss of a portable gauge. The gauge reportedly was lost or stolen sometime between the evening of Friday, May 11, 2001 and Saturday morning, May 12, 2001. The gauge is a Troxler, model 3411B, serial number 14682, containing 8 millicuries (296 megabecquerels) of cesium-137 and 40 millicuries (1.48 gigabecquerels) of americium-241. The licensee issued a news release on May 17, 2001 describing the gauge and offered a \$500 reward for the return of the gauge.

The North Carolina Division of Radiation Protection (NCDRP) notified the NRC Operations Center on Wednesday, May 30, 2001, that the gauge had been recovered. A member of the public found the gauge and returned it to the licensee on May 24, 2001. The licensee has turned the gauge over to the manufacturer for further inspection and evaluation.

The North Carolina Division of Radiation Protection is continuing their investigation into the event.

This information presented herein has been discussed with the State and is current as of 8:30 a.m., Thursday, May 31, 2001.

CONTACT: Richard L. Woodruff
404-562-4704

Thomas R. Decker
404-562-4721