

May 17, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-01-017

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

Wingerter Laboratories, Inc.
(An Agreement State Licensee)
Miami, FL
License: 0673-1

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

The Florida Bureau of Radiation Control (FBRC) notified NRC that the licensee had reported the theft of a portable moisture density gauge. The gauge was a Troxler, model 3411-B, serial number 7400, containing 8 millicuries (296 megabecquerels) of cesium-137 and 40 millicuries (1.48 gigabecquerels) of americium-241 as sealed sources. The licensee's truck containing the gauge was stolen when an employee went by his residence and left the truck unattended with the motor running. The event occurred in the Miami area about 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15, 2001. The truck was recovered at 3:00 p.m., on Wednesday, May 16, 2001, but the gauge is still missing.

The licensee has issued a press release to the Miami Herald newspaper offering \$1,000 for information leading to the return of the gauge. The local law enforcement authorities have the incident under investigation. The FBRC has dispatched inspectors to the licensee's facility.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by electronic mail from the State of Florida. The information presented herein has been discussed with the State and is current as of 09:00 a.m., Thursday, May 17, 2001.

CONTACT: Richard L. Woodruff
404-562-4704

Anne T. Boland
404-562-4721