

October 1, 2001

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-2001-033

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

Task Laboratories, Inc.
(An Agreement State Licensee)
Miami, Florida
Dockets/License: 0752-1

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: STOLEN MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE

On October 1, 2001, the Florida Bureau of Radiation Control notified both the NRC Operations Center and the Regional office that the licensee had reported the theft of a portable moisture density gauge. The gauge was a Troxler unit, Model 3411, Serial No. 10079, containing 8 millicuries, cesium-137 and 40 millicuries, americium-241.

The gauge was stowed in its transport case, chained to the bed of a pick-up truck, which was parked in a parking lot in the Miami, FL area. The licensee, upon returning to the lot at 11:30 a.m., September 28, 2001, noticed that the lock was cut and the gauge was stolen from the transport case. The transport case and the keys were not taken.

Local law enforcement authorities have been notified, and in coordination with the Florida Bureau of Radiation Control, an investigation of the circumstances surrounding this apparent theft has been initiated. Consideration is being given to issuing a press release today.

Region II received initial notification of this event by telephone from the Florida Bureau of Radiation Control.

This information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee/State and is current as of 11:00 a.m., October 1, 2001.

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