

February 6, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-01-040A

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

Tri-State Testing and Drilling, Inc.
(An Agreement State Licensee)
Chattanooga, TN
License: R-33105

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: RECOVERED PORTABLE GAUGE

The Tennessee Division of Radiological Health (the Division) notified the Region II office that the licensee had reported that the portable gauge reported stolen on November 28, 2001 had been recovered. The gauge was a Troxler, model 3440, serial number 17252, containing 8 millicuries (296 megabecquerels) of cesium-137 and 40 millicuries (1.48 gigabecquerels) of americium-241 as radioactive sources, locked inside the gauge at the time of theft. The gauge was secured in a locked container and chained to the bed of a pickup truck parked at an employee's residence when stolen. On Friday, February 1, 2002, the licensee reported that the gauge had been found by two men and had been returned to the licensee. The gauge was not damaged and is in storage at the licensee's facility.

Region II received initial notification of this gauge recovery by electronic mail from the Division. The Chattanooga Police Department was also notified by the licensee. This information has been discussed with the Division and is current as of 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 6, 2002.

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