

February 6, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-02-006

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, Inc.
(An Agreement State Licensee)
Louisville, TN
License: R-05018

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

The Tennessee Division of Radiological Health (the Division) notified the Region II office and the NRC Operations Center that the licensee had reported a stolen portable gauge. The gauge was a Troxler, model 3401B, serial number 13284, 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 a YMCA parking lot in Old Hickory, TN (near Nashville, TN). The chain's padlock was cut and the container with the locked gauge was stolen sometime during the night of Tuesday, February 5, 2002. Local police were notified of the event.

The Division has the event under investigation and a press release has been prepared.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Division. The Division also notified the NRC Operations Center, and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency. This information has been discussed with the Division and is current as of 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 6, 2002.

CONTACT: Richard L. Woodruff
404-562-4704

John M. Pelchat
404-562-4729