

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

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

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|---|-------------------------------|
| | 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 portable gauge reported stolen on February 5, 2002, had been recovered. 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) when stolen. A lady notified the Division that she had found the gauge along the side of a road in East Nashville at 12:30 a.m. on February 6, 2002, and she kept the gauge in her automobile until she could determine who to notify.

Division personnel took possession of the gauge and conducted radiation surveys. The transportation case had been opened, but the gauge and auxiliary equipment did not appear to have been removed from the transportation case or damaged. The gauge exhibited normal radiation levels required for transportation. The licensee took possession of the gauge in late afternoon of Wednesday, February 6, 2002.

Region II received notification of this gauge recovery by electronic mail from the Division. This information has been discussed with the Division and is current as of 11:00 a.m., Thursday, February 7, 2002.

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