

February 21, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-02-005A

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

KCCS, Inc.
(An Agreement State Licensee)
Lauderdale Lakes, FL
License: 3087-1

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: RECOVERED PORTABLE GAUGES

The Florida Bureau of Radiation Control notified the NRC Region II office that the three portable gauges reported stolen on February 4, 2002, had been recovered. The gauges and other equipment were stolen from a temporary work site located near Kissimmee, FL sometime between the evening of February 1 and the morning of February 3, 2002. Two of the portable gauges were manufactured by Campbell Pacific Nuclear, models MC-3, containing 10 millicuries (370 megabecquerels) of cesium-137 and 50 millicuries (1.85 gigabecquerels) of americium-241, serial numbers M3707771 and M34002262. The third gauge was manufactured by Troxler, model 3450, containing 9 millicuries (333 megabecquerels) of cesium-137 and 44 millicuries (1.63 gigabecquerels) of americium-241, serial number 278.

Construction workers found the gauges in a woods adjacent to new road construction on McCoy Road located in Orange County, about 2 miles Northeast of the Orlando International Airport. The gauges were undamaged, still in their transportation boxes, and the radioactive sources were in the shielded position. Florida Bureau of Radiation Control representatives conducted radiation surveys and determined that the gauges had normal readings of 0.2 millirem(2 microsieverts) per hour at 3 feet, and there was no removable contamination. The gauges were in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who will release the gauges to the owners when the crime scene investigation is finished.

Local media interest has occurred.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Florida Bureau of Radiation Control. This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 21, 2002.

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