

March 14, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-02-011

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.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
ATC Associates (An Agreement State Licensee) Marietta, Georgia Dockets/License: GA665-1	Notification of Unusual Event Alert Site Area Emergency General Emergency X Not Applicable

Subject: STOLEN PORTABLE MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE

The Georgia Division of Radiological Health (the Division) notified the Region II office and the NRC Operations Center that the licensee had reported a stolen portable moisture/density gauge. The gauge was a Campbell Pacific Nuclear model MC-1, serial number M17077782, containing 370 megabecquerels (10 millicuries) of cesium-137 and 1.85 gigabecquerels (50 millicuries) of americium-241 as radioactive sources in the gauge at the time of the theft. The gauge was secured in a trailer parked at a Home Depot parking lot in Loganville, Georgia. The construction trailer was broken into and the gauge container along with other construction equipment was stolen on March 10, 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 NRC Operations Center. This information presented herein has been discussed with the Division and is current as of 11:00 a.m., Thursday, March 14, 2002.

CONTACTS: José M. Díaz Vélez
404-562-4736

Jay L. Henson
404-562-4731