

July 24, 2002

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE** PNO-II-01-012A

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**

Florida Testing and Environmental  
(An Agreement State Licensee)  
Lakeland, FL  
License: 2058-1

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

Subject: RECOVERED PORTABLE GAUGE - UPDATE

The Florida Bureau of Radiation Control (the Bureau) notified the NRC Operations Center that a gauge reported stolen on April 13, 2001 had been recovered. The gauge was stolen from a truck parked at a temporary job site near Valrico, FL, after the chain securing the gauge was cut. The gauge was a Humbolt, model 5001, serial number 1287, containing 8 millicuries (296 megabecquerels) of cesium-137 and 40 millicuries (1.48 gigibecquerels) of americium-241.

A citizen found the gauge alongside a road near Lakeland, FL on Monday, July 22, 2002, and reported it to the local police authorities. A Bureau representative responded to the event and determined that the gauge was intact and undamaged. The outer case was reported to badly weathered and looked like it had been at the discovery site for a long time. The gauge was returned to the licensee for evaluation.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by electronic mail from the Operations Center. This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 24, 2002.

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