July 25, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-02-025

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	**Licensee Emergency Classification**
Burns, Cooley, Dennis, Inc.	Notification of Unusual Event
(An Agreement State Licensee)	Alert
Ridgeland, MS	Site Area Emergency
License: MS-619-01	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

The Mississippi Division of Radiological Health (the Division) notified the NRC Operations Center that the licensee had reported the theft of a portable gauge from the licensee's truck. The gauge is a Troxler, model 3440, serial number 31621, containing 40 millicuries (1.48 gigabecquerels) of americium-241:beryllium and 8 millicuries (296 megabecquerels) of cesium-137 as sealed radioactive sources inside the gauge. The sources do not present a radiological hazard as long as the gauge remains intact and the sources remain stored on the inside of the gauge and in their shielded position.

The truck was parked at an employee's residence in Jackson, MS, and the gauge was inside a transport case chained to the bed of the truck. The chain securing the transport case was cut and the gauge was stolen sometime between the hours of 11:00 p.m. on July 24, 2002 and 7:00 a.m. on July 25, 2002. A police report has been filed and the Mississippi State Health Department is issuing a press release on the incident.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence from the NRC Operations Center. This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 1:15 p.m., Thursday, July 25, 2002.

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