

August 7, 2002

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

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**

Burns, Cooley, Dennis, Inc.  
(An Agreement State Licensee)  
Ridgeland, MS  
License: MS-619-01

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

Subject: STOLEN GAUGE RECOVERED - **UPDATE**

On July 25, 2002, the licensee reported the theft of a portable gauge from the back of their truck parked at an employee's residence during the previous night in Jackson, MS. The chain securing the gauge to the truck had been cut. The gauge was 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 Mississippi Department of Public Health issued a press release on the event, described the device, and listed a telephone number to call if the gauge was found. The licensee offered a \$500 reward for the return of the gauge.

On August 6, 2002, the Mississippi Division of Radiological Health (the Division) notified NRC, Region II, that the gauge had been recovered. An individual called the Division on August 5, 2002, and related that he had purchased the gauge from two other individuals. The Division took possession of the gauge, tested the gauge for radiation leakage, and determined that the gauge was in good working condition. The gauge was returned to the licensee.

Region II received initial information on the gauge recovery from the Division at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 6, 2002. This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 10:45 a.m., Wednesday, August 7, 2002.

CONTACT: Richard L. Woodruff  
404-562-4704

Jay L. Henson  
404-562-4738