

August 7, 2002

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE** PNO-II-02-028

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**

Bunnell - Lammons Engineering, Inc.  
(An Agreement State Licensee)  
Winston - Salem, NC  
License: 011-1252-1

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

Subject: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

The North Carolina Radiation Protection Section (the Section) notified the NRC Operations Center that the licensee had reported the theft of a portable gauge. The gauge was stolen from the licensee's truck during the evening of Tuesday, August 6, 2002. The gauge is a Campbell Pacific Nuclear (CPN), model MC-3, serial number M370903919, containing 10 millicuries (370 megabecquerels) of cesium-137, and 50 millicuries (1.85 gigabecquerels) of americium-241:beryllium as sealed radioactive sources locked inside the gauge. The gauge does 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 a shielded position.

The truck was parked at a motel in Winston-Salem, NC, 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 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 6, 2002. The licensee reported that the transport case was locked. The licensee is offering a \$250 reward for the return of the gauge.

The local police authorities were notified and the event is under investigation. The Section notified the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and issued a press release which is being carried by the local news media.

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 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 7, 2002.

CONTACT: Richard L. Woodruff  
404-562-47-4

Thomas R. Decker  
404-562-4721