

August 14, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-02-030

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>
Southern Resources (An Agreement State Licensee) Raleigh, NC		Notification of Unusual Event Alert Site Area Emergency General Emergency
License: (GENERALLY LICENSED DEVICE)	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 is a Niton Alloy Analyzer, model XL 801S, containing 10 millicuries (370 megabecquerels) of cadmium-109 as a sealed radioactive source. The source is sealed in a stainless steel capsule inside the gauge and does not present a radiological hazard unless the gauge is broken into or the capsule removed from the case.

The gauge was discovered stolen from the licensee's office on August 13, 2002. The local police authorities have the theft under investigation. The Section has prepared a press release on the missing radioactive material.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Section on August 13, 2002. This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, August 14, 2002.

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