

November 14, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-02-039

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

GEOVERSE, Inc.
(An Agreement State Licensee)
Sunrise, FL
License: 2540-1

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

The Florida Bureau of Radiological Health (the Bureau) 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 24277, 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 a temporary job site at 650 North Mashta Drive, Key Biscayne, FL 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 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on November 13, 2002. A police report has been filed and the licensee is issuing a press release and will offer an award for the return of the gauge.

The Bureau has the event under investigation.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence from the State of Florida. This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 9:00 a.m., Thursday, November 14, 2002.

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