September 27, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-00-041

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**
Law Engineering and Environmental Services		Notification of Unusual Event
Louisville, Kentucky		Alert
		Site Area Emergency
		General Emergency
License No. Kentucky 201-257-51 (Agreement State)	X	Not Applicable

Subject: STOLEN PORTABLE MOISTURE-DENSITY GAUGE

On September 27, 2000, the State of California reported that a Troxler Electronic Laboratories model 3411B portable moisture-density gauge (serial number 12599), containing 44 millicuries (mCi) of americium 241 and 9 mCi of cesium 137 had been stolen. Maximum radiation levels would be 20.8 millirem per hour on contact with the device itself and 3.8 millirem per hour on contact with the device's shipping container.

The device was stolen sometime during the night of September 25-26, 2000, from the bed of a pick up truck belonging to a licensee employee. The truck was parked in the parking lot of a Holiday Inn hotel in downtown Sacramento, California at the time of the theft. The device was stored in its transport container and the container was chained and locked to the truck bed. The licensee believes that the source rod was locked.

The Sacramento sheriff department has been notified. The licensee is intends to issue a press release offering a $1000.00 reward for the return of the device.

RII received this information from the NRC Headquarter Duty Officer, the State of California, and the licensee on September 27, 2000.

This information is current as of 2:30 p.m.

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