

December 16, 2002

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE** PNO-II-02-043

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**

MACTEC Engineering & Consulting  
(An Agreement State Licensee)  
Kennesaw, GA  
License: GA 1458-1

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

Subject: STOLEN GAUGE

The Georgia Radioactive Materials Program notified the NRC Operations Center that the licensee reported the theft of a portable gauge containing radioactive material. The gauge was a Niton, model XRF XL-309 lead paint analyzer containing 259 megabecquerels (7 millicuries) of cadmium-109 sealed inside the gauge. The gauge is a hand held device that can be used in the field or under laboratory conditions. The device does not present a radiation hazard as long as the source remains inside the device with the shutter closed.

The gauge was stolen from the trunk of a rental car parked at a hotel in Miami Beach, FL on December 9, 2002. The licensee reported the theft to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and was instructed to notify the North Miami Beach Federal Bureau of Investigation office and the local police authorities. The local police have the event under investigation (case number 2002-412-68). Georgia notified the State of Florida.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence from the NRC Operations Center on Monday, December 16, 2002. This information has been discussed with the State of Georgia and the State of Florida, and is current as of 3:00 p.m., Monday, December 16, 2002.

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