

April 17, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-03-003A

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

Gallet and Associates, Inc.
(An Agreement State Licensee)
Birmingham, AL
License: 991

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE RECOVERED

The Alabama Office of Radiation Control (the ORC) notified the NRC, Region II office that the portable gauge reported stolen on March 22, 2003, had been recovered. The gauge was a Campbell Pacific, Model MC-3, serial number M3-30801649, containing 10 millicuries (370 megabecquerels) of cesium-137, and 40 millicuries (1.48 gigabecquerels) of americium-241. The gauge had been taken from the back of a company truck parked at an employee's home in Homewood, Alabama.

A press release was issued by the licensee, and run by local TV stations on Saturday, March 22, 2003. The licensee called the Alabama ORC on April 7, 2003, and informed the ORC that the gauge had been recovered from a creek located in the Birmingham, Alabama area. The radioactive sources were not damaged and found in their safe, stored position within the gauge. The local police authorities had been informed about the location of the gauge and assisted the licensee in the recovery.

Region II received this updated information by electronic mail from the Alabama ORC. This information has been discussed with the ORC and is current as of 12:45 p.m., Thursday, April 17, 2003.

CONTACT: Richard L. Woodruff
404-562-4704

Jay L. Henson
404-562-4731