

April 17, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-03-005A

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

R&L Carriers, Inc.
(A transportation company)
Lakeland, FL
Non-licensee:

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: UPDATE ON TRANSPORTATION INCIDENT INVOLVING RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

The Florida Bureau of Radiological Health (the Bureau) notified the NRC, Region II office that one of the Troxler gauges involved in a truck accident had been recovered. The gauges were in a truck that burned following an accident on State Road 60, four miles west of US route 441 in Osceola County on Saturday, April 5, 2003. Each gauge contained 8 millicuries (296 megabecquerels) of cesium-137 and 40 millicuries (1.48 gigabecquerels) of americium-241, as sealed sources inside the gauge.

The debris from the burned truck was placed into two dumpster type containers. One of the containers was sent to the Orange County Landfill, and the other container was sent to a hazardous materials site. A contractor, using appropriate clothing and equipment, was hired to search the container at the landfill. After the gauge was located, the Bureau confirmed that the sealed radioactive sources were still inside the shielded gauge housing, and there was no leakage of radioactive material from the sources. The contractor is continuing the search for the remaining gauge in the dumpster container at the hazardous waste facility.

Region II received this updated information from the Bureau by electronic mail. This information has been discussed with the Bureau and is current as of 2:45 p.m., Thursday, April 17, 2003.

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