

January 21, 1994

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-94-002

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 the Region II staff on this date.

Facility

Agreement State License  
Professional Services Industries  
West Palm Beach, Florida  
License No: N/A

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: FOUND MOISTURE/DENSITY GAUGE

On January 21, 1994, Region II received notification from the State of Florida, Office of Radiological Control, that a Troxler Model 3411B moisture/density gauge belonging to Professional Services Industries, Inc., initially reported stolen on November 2, 1993, had been found. The State received a call from a local citizen that a device labelled as radioactive material was in the yard of a neighbor. On January 20, 1994, the State interviewed the neighbor, and the neighbor indicated that in early November 1993, he and a truck in front of him hit the device on an exit ramp from I-95 near Atlantic Avenue in West Palm Beach, FL. He stopped and picked up the device and carried it home. He set it by his garage and forgot about it. In responding, the State found that the Americium 241 source was still in the shielded position, however the 8 millicurie Cesium-137 source was missing. The licensee and the State surveyed the site where the individual picked up the gauge and found the source attached to approximately 5 inches of the source rod in a ditch beside I-95. The source was reading approximately 80 milliroentgens per hour on contact. The licensee recovered the source and placed it in a shielded container. Surveys of the ditch area performed after the removal of the source indicated that the source had not leaked. The licensee will leak test the sources prior to returning the gauge and sources to the vendor.

This information is current as of 10:00 a.m. on January 21, 1994.

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