

December 10, 1993

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-93-071

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
Kingsport Police Department
Kingsport, Tennessee

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

Subject: NUCLEAR GAUGE FOUND IN TENNESSEE

On the night of December 9-10, two individuals found a Texas Nuclear Model 5190 gauge on the side of a road near Kingsport, Tennessee. The markings on the gauge indicated it contained 200 millicuries of cesium 137. The gauge was taken to the Kingsport Police Department. Surveys made by the Kingsport Fire Department showed radiation levels at the surface of the gauge ranging from 10 to 50 milliroentgens per hour. The gauge appeared to have the shutter in the locked open position. The gauge has been secured at the police department. A representative of the Tennessee Division of Radiological Health was dispatched to Kingsport. Region II received this information from the State of Tennessee.

This information is current as of 11:30 a.m. on December 10, 1993.

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