October 21, 1986

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-86-77

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:

Alabama Highway Department
Agreement State Licensee
Winfield, Alabama

Licensee Emergency Classification:
____Notification of Unusual Event
____Alert
____Site Area Emergency
____General Emergency
__X__Not Applicable

SUBJECT: STOLEN RADIOACTIVE SOIL DENSITY GAUGE

The Alabama Department of Public health has notified Region II that a radioactive soil density gauge was stolen from the Alabama Highway Department sometime over the past week-end from a location in Winfield, Alabama.

The gauge, made by Campbell Pacific Nuclear Corporation, is contained in an aluminum and steel shell whose dimensions are 14 by 9.5 by 24 inches. The radioactive source is sealed in one end of a rod which is locked in the storage position until ready for use by an integral key lock. The shell of the device is marked with a radiation symbol and the words, "Caution Radioactive Material." It contains 10 mCi of Cesium-137 and 50 mCi of Americium-Beryllium.

The State of Alabama has issued a news release asking anyone who finds the gauge to stay five feet away from it and to notify local law enforcement officials or the Radiological Health Branch of the Alabama Department of Public Health.

This PN is being issued for information purposes only.

This information is current as of 10:00 a.m. (EDT) on October 21.

Contact: R. E. Trojanowski, 242-5597

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