

October 26, 1999

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-99-046A

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

Pritchard Engineering Company  
(An Agreement State Licensee)  
Starkville, Mississippi  
License No: MS-865-01

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: RECOVERED PORTABLE GAUGE

The Mississippi Division of Radiological Health notified NRC on October 26, 1999 that the licensee had recovered the missing portable moisture density gauge that fell from a truck near Starkville, MS on October 19, 1999.

The device was found on October 20, 1999 by a delivery truck driver, who took the device to his home located in Mashulaville, MS. The owner of the device was contacted through the Mississippi Department of Transportation and the owner (licensee) took possession of the device on October 25, 1999. The licensee reported that the device suffered only minor damage to the case and the radiation survey was normal.

The Mississippi Division of Radiological Health instructed the licensee to conduct a leak test on the device and the Division will conduct a follow up investigation of the event.

This information is current as of 12:15 p.m., Tuesday, October 26, 1999.

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