

December 1, 1999

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-99-048

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 in Atlanta, Georgia on this date.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Prof. Engr. & Insp. Co., Inc.	Notification of Unusual Event
(An Agreement State Licensee)	Alert
1001 Jupiter Park Drive, Suite 118	Site Area Emergency
Jupiter, Florida 33458	General Emergency
License No: FL-2940-1	X Not Applicable

Subject: LOST PORTABLE GAUGE

The Florida Bureau of Radiation Control notified NRC that the licensee (Professional Engineering and Inspection Company, Inc.) reported a missing portable gauge. The gauge is a Troxler Model 3411-B containing 8.0 millicuries of cesium-137 and 40.0 millicuries of americium-241/beryllium. The device fell from a moving pick-up truck on Highway A1A at the corner of Bridge Road and Beach Road, on Jupiter Island, FL during the morning of December 1, 1999. A county employee witnessed the event and saw a vehicle stop and pick up the truck bed liner, and another vehicle stop and pick up the gauge. Local authorities and the Bureau of Radiation Control are investigating the event.

The Martin County Emergency Management Agency and the licensee are issuing a press release. The press release describes the device as contained in a bright yellow box 2 feet by 2 feet by 36 inches long and labeled with radiological hazard emblems. Anyone finding the box is instructed to bring the box to any law enforcement or fire/rescue agency. The licensee has offered a substantial reward for the return of the device.

This information is current as of 02:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 1, 1999.

Contact: R.L. Woodruff
(404)562-4704

IE34
ID+B-3-1
OP. EXP.

POIR I+E