

March 31, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-00-016

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	Licensee Emergency Classification
(An Agreement State Licensee)	Notification of Unusual Event
J. B. Coxwell Contracting, Inc.	Alert
Jacksonville, Florida	Site Area Emergency
	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: STOLEN PORTABLE MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGE

On March 31, 2000, the Florida Bureau of Radiation Control notified the NRC Operations Center of the theft of a portable moisture density gauge from a state licensee.

The gauge is a Troxler Model 3430 (Serial No. 29412) containing a cesium-137 source of approximately 296 megabecquerels (8 millicuries) and an americium-241/beryllium source of approximately 1.48 gigabecquerels (40 millicuries). The gauge was taken from the bed of a pickup truck parked at a motel in Jacksonville, Florida. The gauge was stored in an approved transportation package and was secured to the vehicle by a chain. The Florida licensee notified the Jacksonville Police Department of the theft. The State is assisting the licensee with preparing a press release regarding the stolen gauge.

This information has been discussed with the State of Florida and is current as of 10:30 a.m., March 31, 2000.

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