

April 1, 2002

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-02-014A

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

Thompson-Arthur Division APAC-Carolina, Inc.

Greensboro, North Carolina

Dockets/License: 041-039

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event

Alert

Site Area Emergency

General Emergency

X Not Applicable

Subject: RECOVERED PORTABLE GAUGE

On March 31, 2002, the North Carolina Division of Radiation Protection (the Division) notified NRC's Operation Center that the portable gauge reported stolen on March 28, 2002 (Event # 38816) had been recovered. The licensee had reported that their pickup truck containing the moisture/density gauge was stolen at approximately 4:30 (EST) on March 28, after employees left it unattended. The Troxler density gauge, Model 4640B (Serial No. 1996), contained a nominal 296 megabequerels (8.0 millicuries) cesium-137 source locked inside the gauge. The licensee promptly reported the theft to the local police department and issued a press release.

The local police department recovered the stolen gauge in another county during the early morning hours of Sunday, March 31, 2002. The Division took possession of the gauge, conducted radiation surveys, and determined that the gauge was not damaged and radiation readings were normal. The gauge will be returned to the licensee.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 9:00 a.m., Monday, April 1, 2002.

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