

June 12, 2003

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE** PNO-II-03-010

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**

Consolidated Coal Company  
Buchanan Mine Preparation Plant  
Mavisdale, Virginia

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

Docket/License: 999-90002

X

Subject: MISSING FIXED GAUGE

On June 11, 2003, the general licensee reported to the Headquarters Operations Center and Region II that on June 4, 2003, they discovered that a fixed gauge was missing from their inventory. The general licensee indicated that the gauge had been out of service for some time and, on January 29, 2003, was physically removed from its pipe placement and put into storage awaiting disposal. The general licensee indicated that when placed in storage, the gauge's shutter was closed and padlocked. On June 2, 2003, the general licensee went to remove the gauge from storage to initiate disposal and could not locate it. After an unsuccessful preliminary search for the gauge, the licensee declared it missing on June 4, 2003. The general licensee initiated more in-depth searching and began interviewing employees. As of June 12, 2003, the gauge had not been located and no significant information regarding its whereabouts had come from employee interviews. The missing gauge is a TN Technologies Model 5202, Series SG, serial number B-174. Initial activity of the gauge was 500 millicuries in November 1984; therefore, the decay-corrected activity on June 12, 2003, is approximately 325 millicuries. The gauge was last leak tested on September 3, 2002, with negative results. Region II will continue to review the licensee's followup to this event.

Region II notified the Commonwealth of Virginia about this event. The information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 10:15 a.m. on June 12, 2003.

Contact: Bryan A. Parker  
404-562-4728

Thomas R. Decker  
404-562-4721