

February 25, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-97-010

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 in Atlanta, Georgia on this date.

Facility

Bhate Engineering Corporation  
5217 5th Avenue, South  
Millington, Tennessee 35212  
License No: R-A1009

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: STOLEN MOISTURE DENSITY GAUGES

Tennessee, an Agreement State, notified NRC, Region II that the Licensee reported that two portable gauges were stolen. The devices are Humbolt, Model-5001P, having serial numbers 124 and 160. Each device contains approximately 10 millicuries cesium-137 and 40 millicuries americium-241:beryllium.

The devices were stolen from a temporary job-site construction trailer located at a Wal-Mart facility in Millington, TN sometime between the close of business on Friday, February 21, 1997 and Monday morning, February 24, 1997. The status of whether the radioactive sources were locked in the devices is unknown at this time.

The local police authorities have been notified and the State is conducting an investigation. The State issued a press release on February 24, 1997.

This information is current as 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 25, 1997.

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