

April 14, 2004

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-04-001

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

Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant
USEC
Paducah, KY
Docket: 07007001
Certificate: GDP-1

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

SUBJECT: MEDIA INTEREST IN SMALL URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE LEAK

There has been media interest in a small uranium hexafluoride leak inside a building at the USEC Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. At approximately 10:33 a.m. (CST) a UF₆ leak was reported in the C-360 Tolls, Sampling, and Transfer Building near a uranium hexafluoride sample cabinet. Personnel in the area manually isolated the sample line and evacuated the C-360 Building and the neighboring C-360A Building. Emergency squad members entered the building in full protective gear and did not find any sign of a UF₆ leak. None of the UF₆ release smoke detectors actuated. The workers were not contaminated. Bioassay samples have been requested of all of the workers involved. Approximately 12 workers in C-360 and C-360A were evacuated. Upon hearing a plant announcement concerning the leak the Senior Resident Inspector responded to the area near Building C-360 and monitored the certificatees action's and survey results.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky was informed of the media interest in the leak by the NRC.

The Region II office received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Senior Resident Inspector on April 14, 2004, at approximately 11:00 a.m. (CST). This information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 3:30 p.m. on April 14, 2004.

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