February 4, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-03-006

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 the Region III staff on this date.

Facility	**Licensee Emergency Classification**
U. S. Enrichment Corporation	___ Notification of Unusual Event
Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant	___ Alert
Paducah, KY	___ Site Area Emergency
Docket: 07007001	___ General Emergency
Certificate: GDP-1	_x_ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: STRIKE BY UNION PERSONNEL

DESCRIPTION:

Employees represented by the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy (PACE) Workers International Union Local 5-550 at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant went on strike at 7:00 a.m. (CST) on February 4, 2003. The plant is currently being operated by salaried workers and management personnel. Security personnel at the plant are represented by another union and are not involved in the strike.

The contract between the union and U. S. Enrichment Corporation expired on January 31, 2003. Union members rejected the company's final contract offer, and the union notified the company on February 3 of its intent to strike. The main points of disagreement involve health care costs and pension contributions.

The NRC Resident Inspectors, assigned to the Paducah Plant, are maintaining 24-hour a day on-site coverage to observe plant operations consistent with the NRC Strike Contingency Response Plan.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky and the NRC Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards have been notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been discussed with certificatee management.

Region III (Chicago) was notified that the strike had commenced by the NRC Senior Resident Inspector at 7:30 a.m. (CST) on February 4, 2003. This information is current as of that time.

CONTACTS:	Kenneth G. O'Brien	Bruce L. Bartlett
	630-829-9821	270-442-7118