

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-II-15-002

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. Some of the information may not yet be fully verified or evaluated by the Region II staff (Atlanta, GA).

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Honeywell International, Inc.	Notice of Unusual Event
Honeywell Specialty Chemicals	X Alert
Metropolis, IL	Site Area Emergency
Docket/License: 40-3392/SUB-526	Not Applicable

Subject: ALERT AT HONEYWELL METROPOLIS WORKS DUE TO UF₆ LEAK

At 5:55 p.m. CDT on August 1, the Honeywell Metropolis Works Plant declared an ALERT due to an ongoing uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) release. The source of the leak was from a tell-tale valve installed during maintenance activities for a condenser in the distillation process within the Feed Materials Building (FMB). The licensee employed a mitigating strategy using vacuum and plugging the leak, as well as initiating water spray towers external to the FMB.

A Protective Action Recommendation (PAR) order was issued for local residents to shelter in-place although there was no indication of an offsite release. The PAR order was subsequently lifted at 7:48 p.m. CDT. At 8:35 p.m. CDT the licensee reported that the leak was isolated by installing a pipe plug into the threaded tell-tale line.

There were no worker injuries and all onsite personnel were promptly accounted for.

At 8:32 p.m. CDT, the ALERT was downgraded to a Plant Emergency based on mitigation status and visual observation of the affected area.

The NRC entered Monitoring mode at 8:21 p.m. EDT on August 1, and the Region II Incident Response Center was manned and operational at 9:17 p.m. EDT. The NRC returned to Normal mode at 1:13 a.m. EDT on August 2. Region II continues to monitor the licensee's actions and is considering additional inspection activities.

The State of Illinois was notified by the licensee.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by phone from the HOO at 8:15 p.m. EDT on August 1. The information herein has been discussed with the licensee and the State of Illinois and is current as of 1:00 a.m. EDT on August 2.

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