

February 9, 1993

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-93-006

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 IV staff on this date.

Facility

Sequoyah Fuels Corporation
Sequoyah Fuels Corporation
Gore, Oklahoma
Dockets: 04008027 License No: SUB-1010

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: CONTAMINATED WASTES SENT OFFSITE

The state of Oklahoma informed NRC Region IV on the afternoon of February 8, 1993, that one of their inspectors found 32 barrels from General Atomics' Sequoyah Fuels Corporation (SFC) at a hazardous waste processor's facility in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with low levels of radiation. The state inspector reported that he measured 20 - 40 microroentgens per hour (uR/hr) on all but one drum, which measured 100 uR/hr (background reading was approximately 8 uR/hr). While these external radiation levels do not pose an undue risk to the public, they indicate that the contents may contain licensed material in excess of the limits set forth in 10 CFR 40.13.

The shipping manifest indicates that 29 drums contained electrolyte sludge and 3 drums contained hydrogen fluoride. The licensee was notified by NRC Region IV at about 5:00 pm CST, on February 8, 1993, of the radiation levels found on the barrels. The hazardous waste processor plans to segregate the drums and hold them until further notice. A licensee representative stated that SFC would investigate the incident. NMSS has been informed.

The Region IV public affairs officer will inform Oklahoma news organizations of this incident.

Region IV received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the state of Oklahoma at 3:30 pm CST, February 8, 1993. The information presented herein is current as of that time and date.

NRC Region IV is dispatching an inspector to the hazardous waste processor's facility on February 9, 1993

Contact: Mike Vasquez
(817)860-8121

Charles L. Cain
(817)860-8186

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PDR I&E
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