

February 11, 1993

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

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
Gore, Oklahoma
License No: SUB-1010
Docket: 040-8027

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: CONTAMINATED WASTES SENT OFFSITE (UPDATE)

A Region IV inspector conducted an inspection at a hazardous waste processor's facility in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on February 9, 1993, to make measurements on 32 barrels containing waste from General Atomics' Sequoyah Facility. The state of Oklahoma had previously made measurements on these barrels, and the NRC inspector confirmed these readings (20 to 100 uR/hr).

At the same time, Sequoyah Fuels staff obtained samples of the contents of the barrels and performed analyses which found natural uranium content of no more than 3 to 20 ppm. (The material would have been classified as source material above 500 ppm.) The primary constituent in the barrels was found to be potassium bifluoride (KF₂); therefore, the source of the gamma radiation from the barrels is suspected to be naturally occurring potassium-40. The licensee also reported dose rates of approximately 50 uR/hr from barrels of unused KF₂ shipped to the licensee from its chemical supplier. (KF₂ is used by the licensee to produce fluorine gas.)

The one barrel that was found to read the highest, 100 uR/hr at the bottom, will be sampled from the bottom as well as at the top to confirm that the mixture does not constitute one of source material before it is shipped for disposal.

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