

February 18, 1993

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

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 (UPDATE)

This updates PNO-IV-93-006 and PNO-IV-93-006A in which a state of Oklahoma inspector found low radiation readings on 32 barrels of hazardous waste from General Atomics' Sequoyah Fuels Corporation (SFC). The low external radiation readings from 31 of the 32 barrels are believed to originate from naturally occurring potassium-40. However, late on Friday, February 12, SFC informed NRC that a green material was found when the final barrel was opened from the bottom end (the location of the highest readings). Based on surveys and its appearance, the licensee suspected the material to be uranium tetrafluoride. The barrel has been returned to the Sequoyah Facility.

Licensee representatives informed NRC on February 17 that the green material is 27 percent uranium by weight. The licensee is continuing its investigation to determine the circumstances surrounding the release of this material off site in violation of its license.

A state of Oklahoma inspector was present at the waste processing site in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on Friday, February 12, and the state has been informed that the green material is source material.

NMSS has been informed.

Region IV will inform area media representatives.

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