

August 30, 1985

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-85-44B

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 NRC staff on this date.

FACILITY: Saskatchewan Mining Development Corporation
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

Licensee Emergency Classification:
☐ Notification of Unusual Event
☐ Alert
☐ Site Area Emergency
☐ General Emergency
☒ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: TRUCK-TRAIN ACCIDENT INVOLVING SPREAD OF URANIUM CONCENTRATES (UPDATE)

On August 27, 1985, an accident occurred between a train and a truck transporting dry natural uranium concentrates from Saskatchewan enroute to Sequoyah Fuels in Gore, Oklahoma. The vehicle was transporting 53 drums of dry uranium concentrate (approximately 45,000 pounds). A response team from the shipper has arrived at the scene, accompanied by an emergency response team from another Canadian mining company. The highway is still blocked by the derailed train, and traffic is being detoured on alternate routes. The contractor to the mining company has arrived at the site with a crew of 20 people. Initial recovery efforts are underway. The truck and trailer will be shipped intact back to Canada. Large recovery drums have arrived onsite to expedite the recovery. Plans call for completion of recovery on September 7, 1985. The State of North Dakota remains in control of the accident and has established a command center at the site.

Bioassay samples have been collected and shipped to the support laboratory. All nasal smears collected have not revealed any activity. The body of the truck driver was autopsied in Minot, North Dakota on August 29, 1985. The body will be shipped to Canada shortly.

The NRC will maintain coverage of the incident through the weekend with an inspector onsite.

Local media attention has diminished. Region IV does not plan to issue a press release.

This information is current as of 9:00 a.m. CDT, August 30, 1985.

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