

March 17, 1986

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-86-09A

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 Facility  
Sequoyah Fuels Corporation  
Gore, Oklahoma  
License No. SUB-1010

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

SUBJECT: OVERFILL OF UF6 CYLINDER

NRC personnel from Region IV and NMSS are continuing their examination of the events that led to the overfilling of a 10-ton uranium hexafluoride (UF6) cylinder at the Sequoyah Fuels Corporation (SFC) plant near Gore, Oklahoma. The overfill occurred on March 13, 1986 during the draining of UF6 that had remained in cold traps since the January 4, 1986, rupture of a UF6 cylinder at the plant.

An improperly positioned lever on the scale at the facility's north filling station has been identified as the cause of the approximate 6,000-pound overfill. SFC officials believe the pivot point on the lever was knocked out of its normal position during decontamination of the area beneath the scale platform. The scale has been repaired and recertified by the McElheny Scale Company.

The company discovered the magnitude of the overfill by weighing the cylinder on the accountability scale that had been weight-checked prior to the beginning of the draining operation. The cylinder has remained on the accountability scale while the excess UF6 is drawn off by vacuum. At this time, the net weight of UF6 in the cylinder is 21,224 pounds, 1,224 pounds more than the limit provided for in the procedure developed specifically for the draining operation but only 194 pounds more than the normal limit for shipping UF6. The threat to safety created by the overfilling was minimal because the procedure in use provided that the weight of the cylinders would be checked on the accountability scale and provided that no heating of filled cylinders would take place. The procedure did not require weight-checking the scales in use at the filling stations.

NRC personnel completed interviews with six SFC personnel on Sunday, March 16, 1986, and plans to interview additional people today, including the technician who examined and repaired the scale on Friday, March 14, 1986. All interviews are expected to be completed today.

The State of Oklahoma has been informed.

RIV:NMSS  
RJEverett  
3/17/86

D:URS&S  
RLBhgart  
3/17/86

8603200269 860317  
PDR I&E  
PNO-IV-86-009A PDR

Transmitted via 5520 - 3/17/86

o/i IE34

Although media interest in the overfilling incident was high initially, it has subsided. Both NRC and SFC issued news announcements and responded to inquiries on Friday.

This information is current as of 10 a.m. on Monday, March 17, 1986. This is the final PNO on this subject. The results of the NRC's inquiry will be included in a supplement to the report on the January 4 accident.

CONTACT: R. J. Everett, FTS: 728-8187

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LICENSEE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Reactor Licensee)

Regional Offices \_\_\_\_\_

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RIV:PAW  
RDMartin  
3/17/86

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