

March 14, 1986

40-8027

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

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  
(formerly Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corp.)  
Gore, Oklahoma  
License No. SUB-1010

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

SUBJECT: OVERFILL OF URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE (UF6) CYLINDER

NRC Region IV and NMSS are dispatching personnel to examine the circumstances surrounding a March 13, 1986 overfill of a 10-ton (normal weight of uranium hexafluoride in cylinder) UF6 cylinder at the Sequoyah Facility, a UF6 production plant near Gore, Oklahoma.

Due to an apparent scale malfunction, the cylinder was filled with approximately 26,000 pounds of UF6, 6,000 pounds more UF6 than is normally put into a 10-ton cylinder. The company began removing the excess material by evacuation (without applying heat) immediately after discovering the overfill and estimates that the normal weight of UF6 in the cylinder will be achieved by 7 p.m. today. The scale in use at the time of this incident was not the scale involved in weighing the 14-ton cylinder that ruptured on January 4, 1986.

The company has begun disassembling the malfunctioning scale to determine the problem that led to the overfill. The company has agreed to suspend all other operations at the facility until the NRC permits resumption. At the time of the overfill, the company was draining UF6 that had remained in plant cold traps since the January 4, 1986, incident. The company had been authorized by NRC to perform this draining operation, a necessary evolution prior to system modifications and improvements.

There was no release of UF6 as a result of yesterday's event. The NRC has concurred in the company's plans to continue evacuating the overfilled cylinder to remove the excess material. NRC personnel expected to arrive at the site today will examine the causes of the overfill and will determine the extent to which the company was following its approved procedures for draining UF6 from the cold traps.

The State of Oklahoma was informed of this incident.

NRC has already begun responding to news media inquiries and has issued a statement. The company plans to issue a statement today.

RIV  
SLO  
GFSamborn/cms  
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C:NMSS  
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DRA  
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OI	PSA	ORS	
EO	PS-B		
PSO	OI		
ALO	SPB & PFB		
ASAS	SPB		
PRFB	SPB	SPB	

Region IV personnel who were at the facility this week were informed by the licensee of the overfill and informed other NRC personnel on the evening of March 13, 1986. This information is current as of 10 a.m. on Friday, March 14, 1986.

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