

June 8, 2004

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-04-004

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 Region II staff (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

Facility

Global Nuclear Fuels - Americas, LLC
Wilmington, NC
Dockets/License: 070-01113

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENT INVOLVING SHIPMENT OF NUCLEAR FUEL ASSEMBLIES

On June 8, 2004, at 5:30 am EDT, a tractor trailer carrying a sea land container which contained twelve recently manufactured fuel assemblies overturned on Interstate 80 at mile marker 34 in Tooele County, Utah. The unirradiated fuel assemblies were being transported to Oakland, California for shipment to Japan. The licensee reported that both drivers were injured but there did not appear to be any damage to the overturned sea land container. Both east and west lanes of Interstate 80 were closed for more than one hour after the accident, and were reopened at approximately 7:15 am, EDT. CHEMTREC personnel have been dispatched to the accident scene to advise and assist local emergency response personnel.

Utah Division of Radiation Control personnel at the accident scene conducted radiation surveys of the sea land container and found the radiation levels to be similar to those that were measured when the container was originally prepared for transport. Once the trailer has been uprighted, it will be inspected for road worthiness and if it passes this inspection, the trailer will be transported to a safe haven where the fuel assembly containers will be inspected. When the inspection of the containers is complete, the fuel assemblies will be returned to the licensee's facility in Wilmington, North Carolina.

The State of Utah was informed of this incident by Region IV staff.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by telephone from the licensee at approximately 7:00 am EDT on June 8, 2004. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, and is current as of 10:30 EDT.

CONTACT: Jay Henson
404-562-4731