

March 6, 2008

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-2008-002A**

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, Arlington, Texas, staff on this date.

**Facility**

Sabia, Inc.  
Idaho Falls, Idaho  
Docket No. 03035997  
License No. 11-27727-01

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

**SUBJECT:** UPDATE OF SR-90 CONTAMINATION EVENT

**DESCRIPTION:**

This updates information provided in PNO-IV-2008-002, regarding the contamination of a worker when a strontium-90 (Sr-90) source was breached (EN #44023) at the licensee's facility on February 29. During this event, a worker contaminated his hands, face, and clothing, and inhaled some of the Sr-90. Following the event, the licensee secured the facility to prevent the release of Sr-90 to unrestricted areas.

An NRC inspector arrived in Idaho Falls and began interviewing workers on February 29. A second NRC inspector arrived at the site on March 3. Extensive radiation surveys performed by the NRC, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and the state of Idaho confirmed that no Sr-90 contamination had spread outside the licensee's facility. Included in the surveys were vehicles, residences, and other areas visited by potentially contaminated individuals. A DOE team has completed characterization of the contamination inside the facility.

On March 5, Region IV issued a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) to the licensee and issued a news release. Among other things, the CAL confirmed the licensee's intent to conduct a thorough dose assessment of potentially exposed workers, provide a decontamination plan for the facility, and provide a written report outlining corrective actions planned to prevent recurrence.

There has been continuing media interest in the event.

The NRC inspectors completed the initial incident follow-up and are returning to the Region IV office.

The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 11:00 a.m. (CST) on Thursday, March 6, 2008.

**ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML080660685**

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