

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-09-004

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:

Honeywell International, Inc.
 Honeywell Specialty Chemicals
 Metropolis, IL
 Dockets/License: 40-3392/SUB-526

Licensee Emergency Classification:

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

SUBJECT: VEHICLE ACCIDENT INVOLVING URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE SHIPMENT

On August 2, 2009, shortly after midnight, a tractor-trailer carrying a Model 48Y cylinder containing approximately 28,000 lbs of non-enriched Uranium Hexafluoride (UF₆) overturned on Interstate 64 near Sandstone, West Virginia. The shipment originated from the Honeywell Metropolis Works facility in Metropolis IL, and was being transported to Portsmouth, VA for shipment to URENCO in the Netherlands. Local authorities, including law enforcement and hazardous material (hazmat) response agencies responded to the scene and closed I-64 in both directions at mile marker 139. The driver experienced minor injuries and no other injuries were reported.

Local authorities initially ordered a precautionary evacuation for the town of Sandstone and approximately 100 individuals relocated before the evacuation was lifted. The cab of the tractor-trailer was involved in a fire that was subsequently extinguished. The fire had no affect on the UF₆ cylinder which seperated from the trailer during the accident. Hazmat crews at the scene reported that there had been no release of UF₆. Honeywell dispatched a 4-person team via chartered aircraft to assess the cylinder for damage prior to moving it to another trailer. The team determined the cylinder sustained only minor cosmetic damage, limited to one bent lifting lug. Honeywell personnel verified that there was no visual indication of leakage, and radiation surveys confirmed that there was no contamination or leakage from the cylinder. The common carrier contracted with a private HAZMAT firm to assist in the accident recovery. The cylinder was reloaded on another vehicle and has now been returned to the to the Honeywell facility. Complete traffic flow on I-64 has been restored.

NMSS and Region II staff, along with the Department of Homeland Security-National Operations Center monitored this incident. There has been media interest.

The State of West Virginia was informed. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with Honeywell management.

This information is current as of 11:40 a.m., EDT on Monday, August 3, 2009.

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