

January 16, 2001

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE** PNO-II-01-002

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**

Aerojet Ordnance Tennessee, Inc.  
(An Agreement State Licensee)  
Jonesborough, Tennessee  
License Number: S-90009

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

Subject: INCINERATOR FIRE

The Tennessee Division of Radiological Health (DRH) notified the NRC that the licensee had reported a fire in their incinerator's air effluent cleaning system. The fire occurred on Thursday, January 11, 2001 at 11:30 a.m., and lasted approximately two hours. The building was evacuated, and onsite personnel extinguished the fire. The area is secured and no operations were ongoing at the time of the notification. The licensee initially reported that low levels of removable radioactive contamination were detected in the incinerator area of the facility. The release to the air environment outside the facility was estimated to be 0.013 microcuries (481 becquerel) of depleted uranium.

The State has a DRH technical manager on site to evaluate the corrective actions taken by the licensee and to assess the cause of the fire. Preliminary information indicates that there was no personnel contamination. Air samplers set up in the worker area indicate that the derived air concentration did not exceed 28 percent of the workplace airborne concentrations allowable under the license. The incinerator area is a separate area from the rest of the facility and remains shut down for clean up and evaluation.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by e-mail from the State at 3:28 p. m. on Friday, January 12, 2001. This information presented herein has been discussed with the State and is current as of 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 16, 2001.

CONTACT: Richard L. Woodruff  
404-562-4704

Thomas E. Decker  
404-562-4721