

**Region I
NMSS Licensee Event Report**

Licensee CABOT
 Event Description SPILL of NON-HAZARDOUS FILTER
CAKE

License # SM 5920 Docket # 040-6940 MLER-RI 2003-016
 Event Date 3/12/03 Report Date 3/12/03

1. REPORTING REQUIREMENT

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 CFR 20.2201 Theft or Loss | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 CFR 35.33 Misadministration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 CFR 20.2203 30 Day Report | <input type="checkbox"/> | License Condition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10 CFR 30.50 Report | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other <u>None</u> | | |

2. REGION I RESPONSE

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Immediate Site Inspection | Inspector/Date | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Special Inspection | Inspector/Date | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Telephone Inquiry | Inspector/Date | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Preliminary Report <u>03-005</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Daily Report |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Information Entered in RI Log | <input type="checkbox"/> | Review at next inspection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Report referred to: _____ | | |

3. REPORT EVALUATION

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Description of Event | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Corrective Actions |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Levels of RAM Involved | <input type="checkbox"/> | Calculations Adequate |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cause of Event | <input type="checkbox"/> | Additional Information Requested from Licensee |

4. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR COMMENTS

Review during next inspection

Public Non-Public

Completed by:	<u>J. L. D...</u>	Date	<u>3.1.2003</u>
Reviewed by:	<u>J. L. D...</u>	Date	<u>4.1.2003</u>



Supermetals

RECEIVED
REGION I

263 MAR 23 PM 12: 29

Cabot Supermetals
1608 County Line Road
Boyertown, PA 19512
March 26, 2003

Michael Maiolie
PADEP Waste Mgt. Specialist
1005 Cross Road Boulevard
Reading, PA 19605

Mr. Maiolie

Attached is a summary of the incident that occurred on March 12, 2003 involving a transporter hauling residual waste filtercake from Cabot Supermetals' Boyertown, PA facility. The Transporter has made the appropriate notifications. If there are any further questions regarding this incident please contact me at 610-369-8520.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy M. Knapp', written over a horizontal line.

Timothy M. Knapp
Radiation Safety Officer

CC: Ducan White, NRC Region I; Elaine Brummett – NRC Headquarters; Gerald T. Radomski – PADEP;
David Allard, Bureau of Radiation Protection; Martin L. Vyeniolo, Bureau of Radiation Protection



Supermetals

Cabot Supermetals
1608 County Line Road
Boyertown, PA 19512
March 26, 2003

Re: Incident on March 12, 2003

Summary:

At approximately 5:45 am on Wednesday, March 12, 2003 an estimated 6 tons of non-hazardous filtercake from Cabot Supermetals' Boyertown facility were spilled onto County Line Road at the Route 100 intersection. The spill was immediately contained and the entire area was cleaned by 1:00 PM.

The transporter, Elk Environmental, Reading, PA, contacted PA DEP – South Central and the Department of Transportation. A formal spill report will be filed with PADEP –South Central, by the transporter.

In addition to these notifications Cabot Supermetals placed courtesy calls to PA DEP – South East and to NRC - Region I.

Description of Incident:

Cabot Supermetals (CSM) is one of the leading producers of Tantalum in the world. As part of the production process acidic waste water is generated and treated on site under a PADEP Permit by Rule. The treatment process is acidic neutralization by lime addition. In the de-watering phase of the treatment process CaF filtercake is generated at the rate of 60 tons per day. CSM has contracted, Elk Environmental to manage this waste stream, which is disposed at several local landfills as alternate daily cover.

On March 12, 2003, Delaware Valley Contracting, an Elk trucking sub-contractor, was dispatched to Cabot Supermetals to transport a load of filtercake from the Boyertown facility to BFI – New Morgan Landfill located in Morgantown, PA. The truck was loaded and in transit to the landfill by 5:45am. About 1.5 miles from the plant, when pulling out from the intersection of County Line Road and Route 100, the tailgate on the truck came open allowing 6 tons of filtercake to spill onto County Line Road.

The driver immediately notified Elk's emergency response team and they were dispatched to the site. Due to the proximity of the spill to the CSM facility, CSM also dispatched a response team. With the assistance of local authorities the spill was contained and the area secured. The driver re-secured the tailgate of the truck and, by 7:20am, the filtercake was loaded back into the truck by one of CSM's contractors.

The spill area, approximately 16' x 15', was then cleaned by the Elk response team, using a street sweeper, pressure washer, brushes, and soap and water. The entire area was cleaned by 1:00pm.

Summary of Findings:

A formal incident investigation was held at 1:00pm. The root cause was determined to be failure on Elk's part to effectively communicate their documented procedure requiring double locking mechanisms. A contributing factor was that the air actuated double locking mechanism on the tailgate failed to hold the tailgate closed once the load shifted inside the truck.

Elk Environmental has a procedure in place that requires all drivers to ensure that in addition to the air actuated double locking mechanism, each tailgate be secured with turn buckles. The driver was unaware of the requirement and failed to engage the turn buckles which serve as a secondary locking mechanism.



Supermetals

Immediate corrective actions were to: (1) stop using Delaware Valley Contractors and any trucks with tailgates manufactured by East, Inc., the same company as the one that failed until a root cause of the failure is determined. (2) Develop and implement a documented inspection procedure to ensure secondary locking mechanism is in place.

Notifications:

1. 6:10 a.m. local police arrive at the spill scene. Local police notified Montgomery County LEPC.
2. 8:00 a.m., Elk notified the Berks County Office of the Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) of the spill with information required from 299.217 (1). PADEP's contact was Mike Maiolie.
3. 8:30 a.m. Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Lou Rorrini) notified of spill. No official document required. Would like to be copied with attached summary.
4. 9:20 a.m., PADEP called Elk for additional details of the spill. A written description was requested from PADEP per 299.217(3).
5. 10:00 am, CSM placed courtesy calls to NRC, Region I and PADEP - South East, Waste Management Program.
6. At 10:40 a.m., Elk notified Berks County (Annette Moyer) and Montgomery County (Tori Rosa) LEPC of spill.

Calculation:

(16 feet long x 15 feet wide x 1 foot (high: average of entire pile)) / (27 cubic feet/cubic yard) *(0.7 tons/cubic yard) =6 tons.