

September 12, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-III-03-037

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 III staff on this date.

Facility

Honeywell International, Inc.
Metropolis, Illinois

Docket No: 040-03392
License No: SUB-526

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event

Alert

Site Area Emergency

General Emergency

Not Applicable

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF NON-LICENSED GASEOUS MATERIAL

DESCRIPTION:

At approximately 6:00 a.m. (CST) on September 12, 2003, the licensee reported that a release of gaseous antimony pentafluoride occurred from the specialty chemical area of its facility. Antimony pentafluoride is toxic but non-radioactive and is not under NRC jurisdiction.

The release occurred during a sampling activity, and it was quickly terminated. The licensee reported that there were no injuries and no environmental consequences. The licensee declared an Alert under its emergency plan, which it uses for all plant activities, including those not under NRC jurisdiction. The Alert was terminated at 11:15 a.m. (CST) on September 12, 2003.

The NRC Senior Resident Inspector from the nearby Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant responded to the Metropolis facility to monitor the licensee's response to the event.

State and local officials were notified of the event by the licensee. The State of Illinois, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the NRC Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards have been notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

Region III (Chicago) was notified of this event at 6:00 a.m. (CST) on September 12, 2003. This information is current as of 12:00 p.m. (CST) on September 12, 2003.

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