

November 20, 2003

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-03-050

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 staff on this date.

**Facility**

Crow Butte Resources, Inc.  
In-Situ Leach (ISL) Facility  
86 Crow Butte Road  
Crawford, Nebraska 69339

Docket: 040-08943

License: SUA-1534

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

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

SUBJECT: MEDICAL TREATMENT OF A CONTAMINATED INDIVIDUAL AT A MEDICAL FACILITY

DESCRIPTION:

On November 20, 2003, at 10:16 a.m. (ET), Crow Butte Resources, Inc. notified the NRC that on November 19, 2003, one of their contract workers at the In-Situ Leach (ISL) facility fell off a ladder and broke his shoulder. The injured individual was working in the Yellowcake Dryer Room, a contaminated area, helping remove the dryer from service and replacing it with a new dryer.

The injury occurred at 2:00 p.m. (MT) November 19, 2003. Crow Butte Resources, Inc. had a rescue team dispatched from the fire department in nearby Chadron, Nebraska. Four paramedics from the rescue team, assisted by two Crow Butte emergency medical technicians, and the radiation safety officer (RSO), removed the injured worker from Crow Butte's Yellowcake Dryer Room and transported the injured worker 21 miles to the hospital in Chadron, Nebraska. The licensee's representative stated that the RSO suspected that the injured worker's protective clothing was contaminated. However, the RSO, paramedics, and medical staff considered treatment of the worker's injury as the priority. Additionally, the licensee stated that they had provided guidance to the hospital and fire department in Chadron, Nebraska as part of Crow Butte's emergency response program. The medical staff treated the injured worker and released him from the hospital later that evening.

The RSO conducted radiation contamination surveys of the injured worker, four paramedics, two nurses, Emergency Room, X-Ray Room, and rescue vehicle. Yellowcake contamination was found on the injured worker's coveralls measuring 1380 disintegrations per minute per 100 square-centimeters (dpm/100cm<sup>2</sup>) and on the knee of one paramedic measuring 1484 dpm/100cm<sup>2</sup>. No other contamination was identified. The RSO transported all potentially contaminated clothing, gloves, towels and paper associated with medical response back to the Crow Butte facility for disposal.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence by e-mail from NRC's Operations Center on November 20, 2003. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, and the Region's PAO and SLO.

This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 12:30 p.m. CT on November 20, 2003.

CONTACTS: Louis C. Carson II (817) 860-8221  
Charles L. Cain (817) 860-8186