

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-03-022A

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.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Licensee Emergency Classification</u>
Honeywell International, Inc. Metropolis, IL	Notification of Unusual Event Alert Site Area Emergency
Docket/License No.: 040-3392/SUB-526	General Emergency X Not Applicable

Subject: AUGMENTED INSPECTION TEAM ESTABLISHED FOR HONEYWELL EVENT

On December 22, 2003, Luis Reyes, the Regional Administrator for the Region II NRC Office, appointed an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) to inspect the circumstances surrounding a uranium hexafluoride leak from a valve in Honeywell's chemical process. Honeywell declared a site area emergency as a result of this release.

The objectives of the AIT are to: (1) determine the facts surrounding the specific event; (2) assess the licensee's response to the event; (3) assess the licensee's activity during their event review and recovery; (4) identify root causes; and (5) assess the public health and safety impact of the event. The team consists of a Region II manager and Region II and NRC Headquarters specialists.

The State of Illinois has been informed of the establishment of the AIT.

This information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of 10:30 a.m. (EST), December 23, 2003.

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