



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION II  
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931**

April 29, 2004

Mr. Rory O'Kane  
Plant Manager  
Honeywell Specialty Materials  
P.O. Box 430  
Metropolis, IL 62960

SUBJECT: INSPECTION REPORT NO. 40-3392/2004-006

Dear Mr. O'Kane:

This letter concerns the fire safety inspection performed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) at your facility in Metropolis, Illinois, from March 29 through April 1, 2004. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities involving fire hazards were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. An exit meeting was held at the close of the inspection on April 1, 2004, and the inspection observations and findings were discussed with members of your staff.

The inspection, which is described in the enclosure, focused on 1) the most hazardous activities and plant conditions; 2) the most important controls relied on for safety; and 3) the principal management measures for ensuring controls were capable, available, and reliable to perform their function relied on for safety. The inspection consisted of facility walkdowns; selective examinations of relevant procedures and records; examinations of fire protection structures, systems, equipment and components; interviews with plant personnel; and observations of plant conditions and activities in progress. Throughout the inspection, findings were discussed with your managers and staff. Based on the inspection, your activities involving fire protection that can affect licensed material were found to be conducted safely and in accordance with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically in the NRC public document room or from the publicly available records component of NRC's document system referred to as the Agency-wide Documents Access and Management Systems (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the public electronic reading room).

Rory O'Kane

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If you have any questions concerning this report, you may contact either Merritt Baker at (301) 415-6155 or me at (404) 562-4731.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jay L. Henson, Chief  
Fuel Facility Inspection Branch 2  
Division of Fuel Facility Inspection, Region II

Docket No. 40-3392  
License No. SUB-526

Enclosure: Inspection Report No. 40-3392/2004-006

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II

Docket No: 40-3392

License No.: SUB-526

Report No.: 40-3392/2004-006

Licensee: Honeywell Specialty Materials

Location: Metropolis, IL

Inspection Dates: March 29 - April 1, 2004

Inspectors: Merritt N. Baker, Senior Fuel Facility Inspector, NMSS  
Manuel G. Crespo, Fuel Facility Inspector, Region II

Approved: Jay L. Henson, Chief  
Fuel Facility Inspection Branch 2  
Division of Fuel Facility Inspection

Enclosure

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Honeywell Specialty Materials NRC Inspection Report 40-3392/2004-006

The NRC performed a scheduled, routine, and announced fire safety inspection of the Honeywell Specialty Materials facility from March 29 - April 1, 2004. The inspection focused on risk-significant plant operations.

#### **Fire Protection**

- No safety concerns were identified during the inspection.
- Plant operations in the observed areas were being conducted in a manner conducive to fire safety.
- The licensee's inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire protection items were found to be consistent with applicable industry standards.
- Inspector Follow-up Item (IFI) 40-3392/2003-201-01 for installation of the hydrofluoric acid mitigation system was closed.

#### Attachment:

Partial List of Persons Contacted

Inspection Procedures

List of Items Opened, Closed, and Discussed

List of Acronyms

## REPORT DETAILS

### 1. Summary of Plant Status

During the inspection period, the only operations being conducted in the Feeds Material Building (FMB) were ore preparation and maintenance support activities. Other plant activities outside of the FMB proceeded as normal.

### 2. Fire Protection (Inspection Procedure (IP) 88055)

#### a. Engineered Fire Protection Systems

##### (1) Scope

The inspectors examined engineered fire protection systems including, but not limited to, the following: hydrants, hose houses, portable extinguishers, automatic sprinklers, hose reels, fire pump and drivers, the fire water storage tank, and the pressurized stair tower.

##### (2) Observations and Findings

The inspectors confirmed that the material condition of engineered fire protection systems was satisfactory. Hose houses were properly supplied with the required length of hose in the specified diameters.

##### (3) Conclusions

No significant concerns regarding material condition of engineered fire protection systems were identified.

#### b. HF Mitigation System

##### (1) Scope

The inspectors performed a system walkdown and interviewed the cognizant engineering and safety personnel regarding the operation of the hydrofluoric acid (HF) mitigation system including spray towers, control stations, and the environmental drain knifegate valve.

##### (2) Observations and Findings

Following interviews conducted with cognizant engineering staff, the inspectors obtained documentation of completion of the licensee's management of change process for this system.

The inspectors examined following fire system impairment records:

- a. tag #07918 through #07920 for construction tie in to the fire main
- b. tag # 07921 dated 6/2/03 for repair of a leak in the fire main
- c. tag # 07922 dated 7/24/03 for repair of a rupture in the fire main
- d. tag # 07923 dated 8/18/03 for repair of a rupture in the fire main

The inspectors also reviewed the management of change documentation for PT-101 Number 499 and confirmed that all the required activities were completed. Therefore, Inspector Follow-up Item 40-3392/2003-201-01 regarding installation of the HF mitigation system is considered closed.

(3) Conclusions

The licensee completed the installation and testing of the HF mitigation system.

c. Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance

(1) Scope

The inspectors evaluated the preventive maintenance results for several key fire safety controls for the FMB, such as portable extinguishers and fire hoses.

(2) Observations and Findings

The inspectors verified that the frequency and scope of inspection, testing, and maintenance (ITM) activities was in accordance with NFPA-25 (National Fire Protection Association), "Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems."

A sample of safety-significant preventive maintenance (PM) records was reviewed for key fire protection systems in the FMB. No overdue maintenance issues were noted.

(3) Conclusions

ITM for key fire protection components were adequately implemented to ensure the availability and reliability for performance of their intended safety functions.

d. Control of Combustibles

(1) Scope

The inspectors performed walkdowns of a wide variety of plant areas to ensure that combustibles were adequately controlled.

(2) Observations and Findings

The inspectors verified that combustible liquids were properly stored in designated containers in closed cabinets. Transient combustibles in the processing areas were adequately controlled to levels below that which could result in a significant fire. Satellite flammable liquid storage tanks for gasoline and diesel fuel were in satisfactory condition, and were furnished with secondary containment and NFPA information diamonds.

The inspectors toured the Feeds Material Building, stores, maintenance shop, and various outdoor locations. Housekeeping in those areas was satisfactory. The inspectors noted that just prior to the inspection, on-shift auditors for the restart effort had requested increased attention to housekeeping as the extended plant outage was coming to a close.

(3) Conclusions

Combustibles were controlled within the inspected areas to minimize potential fire severity and propagation.

e. Site Wide Safety Practices and Hot Work Activities

(1) Scope

The inspectors examined selected fire safety procedures and interviewed licensee safety and maintenance staff regarding the following:

- ▶ SA97-15, "No Smoking Regulations"
- ▶ SA97-16, "Flammable Liquid Fire Hazards"
- ▶ SA97-17, "Fire Extinguishers Placement and Maintenance"
- ▶ SA97-18, "Fire System Impairment"
- ▶ SA97-19, "Transmitting Fire Alarms"
- ▶ SA97-20, "Fire Hazards"
- ▶ SA97-37, "Fire hazards in the Use of Oxygen and Flammable Gases"
- ▶ SA00-01, "Fire Pre-Plan Guide for Fire Emergency & Prevention"

(2) Observations and Findings

The inspectors confirmed that current practices complied with the applicable safety procedures.

The inspectors toured plant areas, including but not limited to: yard, maintenance shop, Feeds Material Building, powerhouse, propane tanks, vehicle fueling area, and sampling building. The inspectors noted the appropriate use of hot work permits for several welding operations being conducted in the FMB.

(3) Conclusions

Site-wide safety practices were capable of minimizing potential fire severity and propagation.

**3. Exit Interview**

The inspectors met with licensee management throughout the week to discuss status of various issues and progress. Inspection results were presented to members of facility management on April 1, 2004. The facility staff acknowledged the findings presented.

## ATTACHMENT

### 1. **PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED**

Licensee

\*J. Johnson, Safety Supervisor  
\*D. Mays, Regulatory Affairs Manager  
J. Miller, Safety Professional

\*Denotes those present at the exit meeting on April 1, 2004.

### 2. **INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED**

IP 88055                                      Fire Protection

### 3. **ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED**

<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Description</u>
40-3392/2003-201-01	Closed	IFI - Tracking the completion of the HF mitigation system installation and upgrades.

### 4. **LIST OF ACRONYMS USED**

ADAMS	Agencywide Documents Access and Management Systems
CFR	Code of Federal Regulation
FMB	Feeds Material Building
HF	Hydrofluoric Acid
IFI	Inspector Follow-up Item
IP	Inspection Procedures
ITM	Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance
NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
PARS	Publicly Available Records
PM	Preventive Maintenance