

June 25, 2004

**PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE** PNO-II-04-005

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.

**Facility**

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

Nuclear Fuel Services Inc.

Notification of Unusual Event  
Alert

Erwin, TN

Site Area Emergency

Agreement State Licensee

General Emergency

X Not Applicable

Subject: PRESS INTEREST IN TRANSPORTATION EVENT

On the morning of June 25, 2004, there were press inquiries to the State of North Carolina and NFS related to a transportation event of the previous day.

Region II received initial notification of a leaking tanker truck from NFS on June 24, 2004. The tanker, containing natural uranium, departed the NFS site with a load of approximately 3000 gallons of natural uranium uranyl nitrate. On June 24, NFS learned that the tanker had developed a leak and was parked at an Interstate 26 weigh station near Hendersonville, North Carolina. A licensee team of radiological controls personnel responded to determine the extent of the problem and determine the source of the leak. A State of North Carolina hazardous material team and radiological control staff responded to the site to monitor and perform independent assessments. A tanker rupture disc was found to be ruptured, which allowed liquid to build up in the manway enclosure and drain to an overflow tank. Leakage was observed to have occurred at both the manway enclosure lid and connections to the overflow tank. The leak rate from the overflow tank drain was estimated to be 10 to 20 drops per minute. Three spots of uranium contamination were identified at the weigh station, the highest being 8000 dpm/100cm<sup>2</sup> alpha and 150,000 dpm/100cm<sup>2</sup> beta. The rupture disc was replaced and other potential sources of leakage were tightened by the NFS response team. The licensee planned to remove the tanker truck pending inspection and approval by the North Carolina Motor Vehicle Division. The NRC Senior Resident Inspector followed incident from the NFS. This information has been discussed with the licensee and the State and is current as of 1:30 p.m., June 25, 2004.

CONTACT: Alphonsa Gooden  
404-562-4716