

June 30, 2006

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-06-008A

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, Arlington, Texas, staff on this date.

Facility

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO
Docket No: 030-03728
License No. 05-01399-08

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

SUBJECT: UPDATE - LEAKAGE OF CONTAMINATED WATER FROM STORAGE TANK

DESCRIPTION:

On Friday, June 23, 2006, the licensee reported to the NRC's Region IV office that they had detected leakage from a below-grade storage tank in Lakewood, Colorado. This is providing an update to the information in PNO-IV-06-008.

UPDATED INFORMATION:

On June 29, 2006, an NRC Region IV inspector and an inspector from the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation conducted an onsite inspection. The licensee has determined the causes of the water loss were most likely tank liner leakage combined with cleanup pump seal leakage.

The licensee has taken immediate corrective actions that have significantly reduced the leakage. The licensee has collected and analyzed water samples from the storage tank and a nearby monitoring well. The tank sample results indicated that levels of cobalt-60 in the tank were significantly below the effluent concentration limit in 10 CFR 20. Onsite analysis of a monitoring well sample indicated that no radioactive material from the tank had reached the well. The licensee has developed a long-term plan to address the leakage, including repair or replacement of the cleanup pump, installing a second monitoring well, and other corrective actions.

Region IV will continue to monitor the licensee's actions.

This information has been discussed with the licensee and is current as of June 30, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. CDT Region IV has informed NMSS, NRR, and OPA.

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML061810432

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