

R2/E3A

DAVID AYERS BI-WEEKLY OPERATIONS STATUS REPORT

Don Goldbach, Manager
Environment, Health & Safety

Thursday March 9, 2000

OPERATIONS SUMMARY**LAST WEEK (2/28-3/3)**

Conversion = 4 UF₆ lines

Pelleting = 4 lines + Line 5 on annulars

LAST WEEKEND (3/4-3/5)

Conversion = down (Saturday & Sunday)

Pelleting = 2 lines (Saturday & Sunday); Line 5 down

THIS WEEK (3/6-3/10)

Conversion = 4 UF₆ lines + Line 5 on nitrate

Pelleting = 4 lines + Line 5 on annulars

THIS WEEKEND (3/11-3/12)

Conversion = 4 UF₆ lines (Saturday & Sunday)

Pelleting = 3 lines (Saturday & Sunday); Line 5 down

UNUSUAL INCIDENTS

On February 25th, a notification was made to the NRC in accordance with 10CFR70.50(b)(1) due to contamination on a concrete pad outside the plant on the south side (behind the UF6 Bay wall). The source was a uranyl nitrate leak inside the plant in the UF6 Bay; a pipe located along the inside of the wall leaked at a flanged connection on February 7th. The solution was immediately cleaned up. It was noticed the next day that some solution had migrated through the wall (along pipes penetrating through the wall) onto the concrete pad. While evaluating this situation, another contaminated area was found along another section of the wall (outside of the Cylinder Wash area). The majority of all contamination found is fixed. The two high priority actions currently in progress are: 1) removing obsolete piping on the inside of the wall in the UF6 Bay, then installing/applying a barrier along the wall/floor to prevent migration of any future leaks; and 2) decontaminating the wall on the outside of the Cylinder Wash area. A short article about this situation was printed in The State newspaper (page B10) on February 29th.

One Pellet Area operator was put on restriction on March 7th due to high airborne readings at the press on Line 1. The source is still being investigated and may be the oxidation oven next to the press.

On March 3rd around 9:30 AM, a Pellet operator fainted (due to a pre-existing medical condition) and had to be taken to the plant Medical department with his controlled area protective clothing on. In Medical, his clothing was removed, he was surveyed and released to the hospital. (The Medical department area was decontaminated and released immediately after the event.) The local fire department was the first offsite responder to arrive at the plant and the employee was transported on their stretcher. After the event, they contacted SC-DHEC (according to protocol) to have their equipment surveyed, which was done and no contamination was found. The local ABC TV affiliate heard about the event (not confirmed how) and one of their reporters came to the plant, but quickly left when he heard the details.

MISCELLANEOUS

We received our second shipment of UNH crystals from BWX-T on March 3rd and began dissolution. The first shipment was dissolved with no problems. We have also received one shipment of scrap pellets from BNFL and are currently oxidizing and dissolving this material.

The March 6th issue of "Nuclear Fuel" ran a rather misleading article on page 5 concerning an incident at the Westinghouse Columbia plant regarding failure of a level probe. The article, referencing a Nov. 18 public document (the NRC Inspection Report), states "The safety issue involved is significant...". However, the same public document also stated "The licensee's immediate actions in response to the ... incident were adequate to keep it from becoming a safety significant event." It's unfortunate that the reporter overlooked this detail.

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