

JUNE 9, 2004

R2/E72

Westinghouse

On June 4, 2004, a Westinghouse NCS Engineer discovered an unexpected mass build up of material. The facility cleans and re-certifies several hundred UF6 cylinders a year. At the tail end of the process, the cylinders go through a high-pressure nitrogen drying. This process involves the use of a 55-gallon drum as a knock-out pot for moisture condensate. It was here that approximately 25% of a critical mass was found. The licensee stated that the accumulation occurred over 8 years. Therefore, no immediate safety concern was present. However the licensee will be conducting a causal analysis into the issue. This marks another area in which an unanalyzed situation was discovered. The event will be reviewed by HQ and RII during the next routine inspection.

No other events occurred this period and production continues at the 7 day/week load.

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