

Specialty Materials

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US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety & Safeguards
Attention: Document Control Desk
Mail Stop T8A33, Two White Flint N, 11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

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

Subject: 30-Day Written Follow-Up Report to NRC Event Number 43456 Reported
6/28/2007 to NRC Operations Center

Dear Sirs:

The Honeywell Metropolis Works facility reported to the NRC Operations Center in accordance with 10 CFR 40.60(b)(3) an event involving injury to a Honeywell employee with subsequent transportation of the individual to a local medical facility with measurable levels of natural uranium contamination. This letter is a required follow-up report to address specific items required by 10CFR40.60(c)(2).

Report to the NRC Event Number 43456 Reported on 6/28/2007.

On June 27, 2007 a Honeywell employee sustained multiple contusions and abrasions to his head, face, and body as a result from a fall from the permanently installed man-lift device. The incident occurred at 1350 at the Honeywell Specialty Materials facility in Metropolis, Illinois in the Feed Materials Building. The employee was transported to the local medical facility with measurable levels of natural uranium contamination of 5,000 dpm/100cm² on his clothing and skin.

Honeywell Health Physics personnel accompanied the injured employee to the hospital where they provided contamination control recommendations to the attending medical staff. No contamination was detected on hospital facilities, equipment or staff following the treatment of the injured employee.

Following decontamination of the injured employee, survey results were less than 1,000 dpm/100cm².

All contaminated materials from the injured employee's decontamination and treatment were collected and returned to the Honeywell Specialty Materials site.

The licensee notified NRC Region II (J. Pelchat).

10 CFR 40.60(c)(2) Written 30-day follow up report required sections

(i) Description of the event, including the probable cause /location/date-time/probable cause:

On 6/27/2007, two mechanics were working in the Feed Materials Building (FMB) basement. At approximately 1350, the employees were leaving the work site to exit the building to cool off (both were sweating and the basement temperature was approximately 120°F).

The first mechanic boarded the man lift traveling upward from the basement on the west man lift. He failed to exit at the first floor because he apparently lost consciousness. While continuing upward, he reached the second floor area and started to fall after contacting the safety cone. The employee fell down onto a second employee on the next man lift platform station then onto the concrete floor at the first floor man lift entrance (approximately 15-20 feet falling distance). A third employee coming down the man lift activated the emergency stop and then assisted the affected employee.

The injured employee received multiple contusions and abrasions to his head, face and leg requiring hospitalization and sutures. The second employee was also seen in the plant dispensary for his injuries, and was found to have a minor contusion on his forehead and indicated he had a sore back.

The cause of the event (as determined from our investigation documented in the Corrective Action Program report IR-07-1430) is, "The employee injury was caused by falling from the man lift in the FMB which occurred when the employee became disoriented because of a change in physician prescribed medication dosage and working in excessive heat."

(ii) Exact location of the event

Honeywell facility in Metropolis, IL, Feed Materials Building (FMB), east man lift.

(iii) Isotopes, quantities, and chemical and physical form of the licensed material involved

Natural uranium ore concentrate, uranium oxide (U₃O₈), dust particulate.

The employee was transported to the local medical facility with measurable levels of natural uranium contamination of 5,000 dpm/100cm² on his clothing and skin.

(iv) Date and time of the event

June 27, 2007, 13.50.

(v) Corrective actions taken or planned and the results of any evaluations or assessments

Immediate actions taken included:

1. Locked out the west man lift and set up for immediate inspection
2. Secured and photographed the area
3. Debrief of emergency Code 1 response conducted
4. TOP(Triangle Of Prevention) and Apollo (Root Cause) investigations started
5. Locked out east man lift

Additional corrective actions in progress:

1. Consider enclosed personnel elevator
2. Train employees on proper times not to use man lift – completed
3. Review methods to improve building ventilation to decrease building temperature
4. Conduct awareness training for all employees on effects of specific medications – completed
5. Reinforce availability of plant nurse and doctor as a confidential resource – completed
6. Communicate heat related work/rest cycles to all employees – completed

(vi) Extent of exposure of individuals to radiation or radioactive materials

The injured employee skin and clothing contamination was 5,000 dpm/100cm². Honeywell Health Physics personnel accompanied the employee to the hospital where they provided contamination control recommendations to the attending medical staff. No contamination was detected on hospital facilities, equipment or staff following the treatment of the injured employee.

Following decontamination of the injured employee survey results were less than 1,000 dpm/100cm². On the next two days following the event (6/28-29) bioassay samples were obtained from the injured employee. Estimated Committed Effective Dose Equivalent (CEDE) is 1.1 mrem.

Please contact Mr. Larry Parscale, Regulatory Affairs Manager, at 618-524-6221 if you have additional comments or questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely

Ronald D. Eich for OBE

David B. Edwards
Plant Manager

cc: L. Parscale

Regional Administrator
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Region II, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Mr. John M. Pelchat, Senior Health Physicist
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