April 21, 2008

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-II-08-005

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 the Region II staff on this date.

Facilities	Licensee Emergency Classification
Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant	__ Notification of Unusual Event
United States Enrichment Corporation	__ Alert
Paducah, KY	__ Site Area Emergency
Docket No. 70-7001	__ General Emergency
Certificate No. GDP-1	X Not Applicable

Honeywell-Metropolis Works
Honeywell Specialty Chemicals
Metropolis, IL
Docket No. 40-3392
License No. SUB-526

SUBJECT: LICENSEE RESPONSE TO EARTHQUAKE ON APRIL 21, 2008

At approximately 12:38 a.m., CDT on April 21, 2008, a magnitude 4.0 earthquake on the Richter Scale occurred with an epicenter located about 37 miles north-northwest of Evansville, Indiana (source: U.S. Geological Survey). The epicenter was located about 110 miles north of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) in Paducah, KY and about 107 miles north of the Honeywell Metropolis Works uranium conversion plant in Metropolis, Illinois.

NRC Region II polled the Honeywell and Metropolis facilities and determined that the earthquake had not been felt at the Honeywell facility and by only a few individuals at PGDP. The resultant motion was not strong enough to activate the seismic sensing system at PGDP. Although not required to enter an emergency action procedure, PGDP personnel implemented their minor earthquake emergency procedure as a precaution, including walkdown inspections of plant systems. PGDP also suspended the use of liquid UF_6 cylinder-handling cranes pending completion of crane inspections. Assessment of the plant found no evidence of damage and PGDP has verified that the seismic sensing equipment continues to operate properly.

Routine licensed activities are being conducted at Honeywell and licensee staff took no action since the seismic activity was not felt at the facility. The licensee did not experience any alarms or other indications of abnormal plant conditions. The licensee's staff is considering the need for additional assessments of plant equipment to verify that plant systems were not affected by the recent seismic activity.

The State of Illinois and the Commonwealth of Kentucky have been informed. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with licensee management.

NRC Region III contacted all operating reactors within Region III. Clinton Power Station was the only site to detect motion; however, the threshhold for an emergency declaration was not met. The site conducted walkdowns and no evidence of damage was found. NRC Regions II and IV have not received any notifications from other licensed facilities located within their areas of responsibility.

This information is current as of 1:00 p.m., EDT on Monday, April 21, 2008.

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