



NUCLEAR FUEL SERVICES, INC.
a subsidiary of The Babcock & Wilcox Company

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CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

21G-11-0113
GOV-01-55-04
ACF-11-0183

June 7, 2011

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: 30-Day Written Notification of Event (NRC Event No. 46851)

Reference: Docket No. 70-143: SNM License 124

Gentlemen:

On May 13, 2011, at approximately 1240 hours (EDT), Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS) made a telephone notification to the NRC Operations Center of an event for which 10 CFR 20.1906, paragraph (d)(1) requires immediate notification. This letter provides the 30-day written notification of that event.

If you or your staff have any questions, require additional information, or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact me or Mr. Randy Shackelford, Nuclear Safety and Licensing Manager, at (423) 743-2504. Please reference our unique document identification number (21G-11-0113) in any correspondence concerning this letter.

Sincerely,

~~NUCLEAR FUEL SERVICES, INC.~~

Mark P. Elliott, Director
Quality, Safety, and Safeguards

JKW/smd

Attachment: 30 -Day Notification of Reportable Event

IE72
NMSS

cc: Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II
245 Peachtree Center Avenue NE, Suite 1200
Atlanta, GA 30303-1257

Mr. John Pelchat
Senior Fuel Facility Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region II
245 Peachtree Center Avenue NE, Suite 1200
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Mr. Kevin Ramsey, Senior Project Manager
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Mr. Galen Smith
Senior Resident Inspector
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

M.P. Elliott to U.S. NRC
June 7, 2011

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Attachment

30-Day Notification of Reportable Event

(2 pages to follow)

30-Day Notification of Reportable Event

1. The date, time, and exact location of the event

The event was discovered on May 13, 2011 at approximately 0900 hours (EDT). The report of the event was made on May 13, 2011 at approximately 1240 hours (EDT). The location of the event is the Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS) site (Building 440, Staging and Loading Area) located in the town of Erwin, Unicoi County, Tennessee.

2. Radiological or chemical hazards involved, including isotopes, quantities, and chemical and physical form of any material released

There are no radiological or chemical hazards associated with the event. There were no materials released.

3. Actual or potential health and safety consequences to the workers, the public, and the environment, including relevant chemical and radiation data for actual personnel exposures to radiation or radioactive materials or hazardous chemicals produced from licensed materials (e.g., level of radiation exposure, concentration of chemicals, and duration of exposure)

There were no actual or potential health and safety consequences to the workers, the public, or the environment associated with the event. There were also no personnel exposures to radiation, radioactive materials, or hazardous chemicals produced from licensed materials associated with the event.

4. The sequence of occurrences leading to the event, including degradation or failure of structures, systems, equipment, components, and activities of personnel relied on to prevent potential accidents or mitigate their consequences

A flat bed trailer of nine empty radioactive material shipping packages, Liqui-Rad (LR) Transport Unit Package or LR230, arrived the evening of May 12 from Westinghouse Electric Company's Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility (CFFF). It had departed the CFFF that afternoon. The Westinghouse outgoing radiological contamination survey report that the driver delivered to NFS showed the activity levels found at all survey points to be below limits for outer surfaces of a package.

The incoming radiological contamination surveys were conducted the morning of May 13 and the surveys found the outside of the lid on one LR230 to have removable radioactive contamination above the limits for alpha/beta activity on the outer surface of a package. The activity levels found were approximately 7,800 dpm alpha/100 sq. cm. and approximately 13,300 dpm beta/100 sq. cm. Westinghouse was notified of the results of the incoming surveys.

The LR230 packages are used to transport low enriched (<5.0 wt.% ²³⁵U) uranyl nitrate solutions from NFS' site to Westinghouse's CFFF in accordance with NRC Certificate of Compliance for Radioactive Material Packages No. 9291, Revision 6. They are unloaded at the CFFF and then shipped to NFS' site to be reloaded.

The contaminated area was successfully decontaminated.

5. **The probable cause of the event, including all factors that contributed to the event and the manufacturer and model number (if applicable) of any equipment that failed or malfunctioned**

Westinghouse reviewed the information provided by NFS and decided to initiate an Apparent Cause Analysis (ASA). At this time the ASA is still underway.

6. **Corrective actions taken or planned to prevent occurrence of similar or identical events in the future and the results of any evaluations or assessments**

At the conclusion of the ASA, Westinghouse will initiate corrective actions.

7. **If the event involved an area or equipment with an approved Integrated Safety Analysis, whether the event was identified and evaluated in the Integrated Safety Analysis**

There is an approved Integrated Safety Analysis for the areas inside Building 440. Leaks or spills of low enriched uranyl nitrate solution were evaluated during the Integrated Safety Analysis.

8. **The extent of exposure of individuals to radiation or radioactive materials**

No individuals were exposed to radiation or radioactive materials as a result of this event.