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**Sent:** Wednesday, September 10, 2014 4:58 PM  
**To:** Kellar, Ray; Linton, Ron  
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**Subject:** Yellowcake drum incident at ConverDyn Metropolis conversion facility

Ray and Ron:

Uranium One is informing NRC that on September 9, 2014 at approximately 5:00PM Mountain Standard Time, Uranium One was informed by representatives from the ConverDyn Metropolis conversion facility of an incident involving a drum (Lot 51, Drum #43) from the Willow Creek facility. As explained to Uranium One by ConverDyn, when the drum lid was being removed at the ConverDyn facility weighing and sampling plant, as the drum lid bolts were being removed, the lid of the drum buckled and U3O8 concentrates escaped the drum and spread in an approximately six foot radius around the drum in the sampling plant area. One ConverDyn employee was removing the lid of the subject drum. ConverDyn has informed Uranium One that the ConverDyn employee was not visibly injured in the incident. It is Uranium One's understanding that a bioassay was taken of the employee, but the results have not yet been received.

Uranium One immediately began an investigation to the potential cause(s) of the incident. In the past 24 hours, records have been reviewed from the Willow Creek facility related to the drying conditions (% moisture content), drumming times, drum venting times, and the shipping records for Lot 51 that includes the final check of all drums for the presence of over pressurization prior to loading and transport by RSB to the ConverDyn facility. Drum #43 was dried on April 18, 2014 and Lot 51 was shipped to ConverDyn on June 23, 2014.

The review of processing and shipment site records to date shows no indication of pressurization or risk of pressurization in any of the drums in Lot 51 at the time Lot 51 was shipped from Uranium One. The drum (#43) was filled in 5 hours, 25 minutes (procedure requires all drums to be filled in no less than 4 hours, 30 minutes), the drum was allowed to vent with the lid unsecured for 28 hours, 15 minutes (procedure requires all drums to vent for at least 24 hours), the percent moisture for this drum was low (1.1%) and the required pre-shipment checks for pressurization prior to loading and shipping was completed with no indication of drum pressurization in drum 43 or any of the drums in Lot 51 at the time of shipment.

It is our understanding that ConverDyn is investigating the condition of the remaining drums in Lot 51 on-site and has suspended processing the remaining drums in Lot 51 until further notice.

All the required procedures and safeguards established to evaluate pressurization of all yellowcake drums shipped from the Willow Creek facility were followed and no signs of pressurization were indicated at the time of shipment. Uranium One has initiated an investigation of the incident and will work with personnel at ConverDyn and the NRC to evaluate all potential causes for this drum becoming pressurized, from the point it was shipped from the Willow Creek facility to the time it was opened at the ConverDyn facility. Uranium One will devote the necessary resources, including outside experts, in performing this investigation. NRC personnel experienced in this particular issue are invited to participate in the investigation.

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