

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-14-008

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 Region II staff (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

Facility:

Honeywell International, Inc.
 Honeywell Specialty Chemicals
 Metropolis, IL
 Dockets/License: 40-3392/SUB-526

Licensee Emergency Classification:

- Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

SUBJECT: HONEYWELL METROPOLIS WORKS SHUT DOWN DUE TO UF₆ LEAK

On October 26, at 8:24 p.m. EST, Honeywell Metropolis Works experienced a leak of UF₆ inside the Feed Materials Building (FMB). The initial indication was a chemical alarm near the UF₆ cold traps. An operator noticed on the room monitor video screen a haze in the air inside the fourth floor of the FMB. This haze indicated a UF₆ leak. The leak occurred during a routine sublimation and draining of a cold trap. Honeywell operators implemented emergency procedures to shut down and evacuate the FMB. Emergency responders reentered the FMB to isolate the cold trap and stop the leak. Honeywell stated that the haze in the FMB was cleared by 8:55 p.m. EST. An "All Clear" was declared by Honeywell at 3:16 a.m. EST on October 27. Members of the public outside the plant reported a cloud emanating from the building for five minutes before the mitigation spray towers were activated by Honeywell staff. The plant is currently shut down. No injuries were reported.

Honeywell's initial assessment of the event determined that no NRC emergency classification thresholds were exceeded.

A Region II inspector has been dispatched to Honeywell to review the details of the event, assess the licensee's response, and monitor recovery and cleanup efforts.

Region II received initial notification of this occurrence by public inquiry to the NRC Headquarter Operations Officer at 9:27 p.m. EST on October 26. The information presented herein has been discussed with the licensee, the state of Illinois, and local officials, and is current as of 3:30 p.m. EST on October 27.

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