

January 26, 1994

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-94-004A

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.

Facility

Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Columbia, South Carolina
Dockets: 07001151 License No: SNM-1107

Licensee Emergency Classification

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

Subject: DECLARATION OF ALERT

At 7:05 a.m., January 26, 1994, the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Commercial Nuclear Fuel Division near Columbia, South Carolina declared an alert due to a release of Uranium Hexafluoride (UF-6) inside a fuel processing building. The release of UF-6 gas occurred at 06:45a.m. due to a valve malfunction. The release was terminated at 06:55a.m.

Personnel were evacuated and the licensee activated their emergency response facilities. There were no personnel injuries. Plant personnel are being monitored for exposures to radioactivity. The licensee is performing surveys for radioactivity at the boundaries of the facility.

At 08:14a.m., January 26, 1994, the NRC entered the monitoring mode. Mr. Luis Reyes, Deputy Regional Administrator, is the base team leader in the Region II Office in Atlanta, Georgia. Two inspectors from the NRC Atlanta Office were dispatched to the Westinghouse Site. The NRC has notified the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, the State of South Carolina Division of Emergency Management and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

*****UPDATE*****

At 9:40 a.m., the licensee downgraded their emergency classification from an Alert to a Local Emergency. A Local Emergency is defined by the licensee as a minor incident situation which deviates from normal operation, but has minimal potential for escalation to a serious emergency.

Preliminary results of samples from the site boundary indicate no detectable release of radioactivity occurred off site. Additional samples are being evaluated.

Results of surveys of employees from the general area of the release indicate no uptake of radioactivity above established action levels.

The licensee has established a root cause analysis team to evaluate the

9402080033 940126
PDR I&E
PNO-II-94-004A PDR

1/0
IE34

event and is planning future recovery actions.

The NRC inspectors are expected to arrive at the site about 3:00 p.m. NRC has issued a press release.

PNO-II-94-004A

-2-

Contact: K. Barr
(404) 331-5089