

November 17, 1992

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-92-038

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 IV staff on this date.

FACILITY:

Sequoyah Fuels Corporation
Highway 10 and I-40
Gore, Oklahoma 74435

Docket No. 40-8027
License No. SUB-1010
Event No. 24616

Licensee Emergency Classification:

☐ Notification of Unusual Event
☐ Alert
☒ Site Area Emergency
☐ General Emergency
☐ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF NITRIC ACID FUMES

The licensee reported on November 17, 1992, at approximately 08:50 CST, a release of nitric acid fumes to facility environs resulting in an offsite plume. The release was from a digestion process tank when UO₂ feed stock (yellowcake) was added to the nitric acid solution in the tank. The licensee declared a site area emergency at 09:12 CST when the nitrous oxide plume was observed exiting the site to the northwest towards Gore, Oklahoma. The release was stopped at approximately 09:20 CST. The licensee shut down both the UF₆ and DUF₆ processing facilities and evacuated onsite personnel upwind to the south gate. The licensee terminated the site area emergency at 09:53 CST.

There are no known medical injuries associated with the release. The licensee is currently analyzing air samples and survey data to determine if any uranium concentrates were released outside the process building. The licensee has made a press release. Region IV has dispatched an inspection team to the Sequoyah Fuels site.

The state of Oklahoma has been informed.

The Region IV Office, Arlington, Texas, received initial notification of this occurrence from the NRC Operations Center at 9:35 CST, November 17, 1992. This information is current as of 2:00 p.m., on the same date.

CONTACT: Johns P. Jaudon, (817) 860-8140

RIV:D:DRSS	RA <i>MM</i>			
LJCallan	JLMilhoan			
11/17/92	11/17/92			

9211230123 921117
PDR I&E
PNO-IV-92-038 PDR

IE34 1/0

DISTRIBUTION:

OWEN

Chairman Selin
Comm. Rogers
Comm. Curtiss
Comm. Remick
Comm. de Planque
EDO

OCA
OGC
PA
OE

NMSS
NRR
SLITP

NMBB
AEOD
IRM
LSSA
NL
RES

FAX
INPO
NSAC
RR1
Licensee

L-ST
PDR
EW
OIG

MAIL: DCS (Orig. IE34)
DOT (Transp. Only)