



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION II  
101 MARIETTA STREET, N.W.  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30323

JUL 18 1988

Report No.: 040-08576/88-01

Licensee: Edlow International  
1815 H Street NW, Suite 910  
Washington, DC 20006

Docket No.: 040-08576

License No.: SUC-1287

Facility Name: Wando Marine Terminal, Charleston, SC

Inspection Conducted: May 9-10, 1988

Inspector: C Bassett  
C. H. Bassett

7/15/88  
Date Signed

Approved by: C M Hosey  
C. M. Hosey, Section Chief  
Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards

7/15/88  
Date Signed

SUMMARY

Scope: This special, unannounced inspection was conducted to review the health physics aspects of a shipment of eight uranium hexafluoride (UF<sub>6</sub>) shipping containers which were lost/damaged while in transit from France via the Dart Container Lines ship, "America" to Charleston, South Carolina.

Results: No violations or deviations were identified.

## REPORT DETAILS

### 1. Licensee Employees Contacted

J. Aumuller, Assistant Manager, Operations

#### Other Organizations

W. Kruger, General Manager, Charleston Container

R. Moyer, Manager, Uranium Marketing, COGEMA, Inc.

C. Scott, Health Physicist, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC)

### 2. UF6 Cylinders Shipping Event

On May 9, 1988, the NRC was notified by the licensee that the Dart Container Lines ship, "America," was transporting eight 48Y UF6 cylinders from France to Charleston, South Carolina when it encountered rough seas on May 5. This resulted in the loss overboard, in international waters of one cylinder and valve cover damage to some of the others. Upon an interim stop in New York City, New York, the National Response Center was notified of the problem and the ship then proceeded on to South Carolina. The ship docked in Charleston at the State Ports Authority (SPA) Wando Terminal for cargo offloading and reloading and was initially inspected by the Coast Guard. An inspector from Region II and a health physicist (HP) from the State of South Carolina DHEC arrived at the Wando Terminal in the late afternoon of May 9, 1988, to assess the radiological consequences of the cylinder damage.

The NRC inspector and State HP performed radiation level and contamination surveys on each of the remaining UF6 cylinders using NRC and State of South Carolina instruments. The cylinders and valve covers were also inspected for physical damage. No alpha, beta or gamma contamination above detectable limits was noted while radiation surveys showed radiation levels from 2 to 3.5 millirem per hour on the containers. Representative smears of the cylinders and deck of the ship were kept for analysis by the Region II Staff. Subsequent analysis confirmed that no contamination above detectable limits was present.

One cylinder was shipped inside a shipping container with what appeared to be a metal lathe while the others were secured above deck by metal bands. The cylinder inside the shipping container had crushed the lathe but had not suffered any damage except for the loss of the valve cover. Another cylinder had sustained a fall of approximately ten feet during the event but no physical damage was noted other than slight damage to the valve cover. The other cylinders remained in place, although some shifting had occurred. No major damage to any cylinder was found.

Following the radiological surveys, the container were offloaded and placed in storage on the dock of the terminal. The licensee then arranged for another inspection of the cylinders by a transportation specialist to determine what would be needed to safely transport them to their final destination in Illinois. The cylinders were expected to be ready for shipment by May 14, 1988.