EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION FOR URENCO USA

In the unlikely event of an emergency at URENCO USA, the Emergency Response Organization will ensure a prompt, professional response to all emergency situations in order to minimize consequences and to protect the public, URENCO USA employees, and the environment.

Coordinated Emergency Response

As a standard safeguard, URENCO USA coordinates emergency planning and response measures with federal, state and local emergency response agencies including local law enforcement, fire departments, and hospitals in the vicinity. Eunice Fire and Rescue provides service to the URENCO USA site, with the Hobbs Fire Department providing additional firefighting and Hazardous Materials response capabilities. The Lea Regional Medical Center in Hobbs is equipped with trauma services. URENCO USA provides specific training to these organizations as needed in order to fully safeguard URENCO USA operations.

What are the hazards?

- Under normal operating and transport conditions, there is no hazard to the public.
- Uranium hexafluoride is the chemical form of both feed and product material at the URENCO USA facility. If accidentally released, Uranium Hexafluoride (UF_6) reacts with moisture in the air to form Hydrogen Fluoride (HF) gas and Uranyl Fluoride, a soluble Uranium compound.
- In very unlikely event of a major release, Hydrogen Fluoride (HF) gas can be carried by the wind and therefore has an effective range of 1.5 miles. It is the chemical properties of Hydrogen Fluoride (HF) which pose the greatest potential hazard to workers and members of the public.
- Most of the radioactive material (Uranium) would deposit on the ground within a few hundred feet of the facility.

What are important facts about radiation?

- Radiation is found naturally in the environment.
- Uranium Hexafluoride and Uranyl Fluoride are radioactive, but the radiation emitted is at a very low level.
- In the unlikely event of a release, the hazard from the Uranium is not the radiation, but the heavy metal toxicity to the kidneys, if the Uranium were inhaled or ingested.

What is done to minimize the risks associated with radiation hazards?

- The URENCO USA facility is designed and operated to the highest safety standards and in such a way that it is extremely unlikely that Uranium Hexafluoride could be accidentally released beyond the confines of the plant buildings.
- It should be noted that the possibility of an escape of sufficient material to create a hazard to the general public is extremely remote.
- Our sister sites in Europe have been operating for more than 30 years and during this time there has never been an incident affecting members of the public.

What procedure have been put in place to deal with a potential release?

- An emergency plan has been prepared by URENCO USA, in cooperation with local, county, and state agencies.
- This emergency plan provides response strategies for a spectrum of incidents, including assessment, mitigation, and protective actions for workers and the public.
- This emergency plan is regularly tested in cooperation with the outside emergency services to ensure a constant state of preparedness.

EMERGENGY CONTACT INFORMATION

Fire, Emergency Medical, Hazmat, Rescue, and Ambulance	
Emergency	911
Eunice Fire and Rescue (Non-Emergency)	(575) 394-2111
Eunice Ambulance Service (Non-Emergency)	(575) 394-3258
Medical Facilities	
Eunice Health Clinic	(575) 394-1091
Lea Regional Medical Center (Hobbs)	(575) 492-5000
Hazmat Team	
Hobbs Fire Department	(575) 397-9308
Law Enforcement	
Lea County Sheriff Sub-Station (Hobbs)	(575) 393-1328
New Mexico State Police (Hobbs)	(575) 392-5588
Emergency: Hazardous Material Information	
ChemTrec Emergency	(800) 424-9300
Poison Control Center	(800) 222-1222
Federal Government Agencies	
National Response Center (spill reporting)	(800) 424-8802
Federal Bureau of Investigation (Albuquerque)	(505) 889-1300