

# CONVERDYN *News Wire* – DECEMBER 2003

An up-to-date information bulletin on the nuclear fuel cycle

**Our Mission: We will be the premier provider of nuclear fuel cycle services with customer satisfaction as our primary focus – Unique, Innovative and Successful.**

December 22, 2003

## MTW Event

The Metropolis conversion plant of Honeywell International Inc., located in Metropolis, Illinois, reported a release of uranium hexafluoride from a valve in a process line at 2:24 a.m. Central Standard Time today. The release was terminated at 3.20 a.m. There were no injuries at the plant, but three individuals offsite were taken to a near by hospital. Two have been released and the third is being evaluated further prior to release later today. About 25 people offsite were temporarily evacuated.

Inspectors from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) have already arrived at the plant for a detailed inspection and review with plant management. While root cause analyses are underway, initial indications from the NRC are that the likely cause of the release is due to a combination of human error and equipment malfunction.

The plant will remain shut down until NRC and Honeywell inspections are completed and the authorities are satisfied that the plant can resume normal operations safely. Deliveries of natural uranium hexafluoride to all enrichment locations will be affected and ConverDyn will work with the affected parties to minimize delivery issues to the extent possible.

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*In order to keep our customers, suppliers and friends current on important timely topics that require immediate communication – we send out the ConverDyn News Wire periodically. Comments and suggestions are welcomed as always*