



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

July 30, 2025

Mr. Chris Jordan
President
Construction Safety Consultants, Inc.
1615 Broadway Street
Paducah, Kentucky 42001

WEL-2025-01

Dear Mr. Jordan:

The Office of Enforcement has completed an investigation into a March 9, 2023, event that resulted in a worker overexposure to toluene at the depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF6) conversion facility near Paducah, Kentucky. Mid-America Conversion Services, LLC (MCS), the prime contractor at the DUF6 facility, reported this event into the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Noncompliance Tracking System (NTS) under NTS-EM-PPPO-MCS-PGDPDUCON-2023-0010627, dated April 24, 2023. Beginning in February of 2023, MCS subcontracted Construction Safety Consultants, Inc. (CSC) to provide general safety oversight for a hydrofluoric acid storage (HFS) tank relining project. This oversight included monitoring the work of Omni Services, Inc. (OMNI), another MCS subcontractor specializing in tank relining, and responsible for applying Chemlok[®] 286, a toluene-based adhesive, inside HFS tank 552. During the investigation, the Office of Enforcement identified concerns that warrant management attention by CSC.

On the day of the event, an OMNI worker entered HFS tank 552 (which was later determined to be unventilated), wearing a full-face air-purifying respirator and permeable clothing to apply the adhesive. Approximately 15 minutes later, the worker exhibited symptoms of overexposure to the adhesive. During this time, CSC, which was conducting general safety oversight, contacted MCS twice: first to report a strong odor near the HFS tank area, and shortly afterward to report a lower explosive limit alarm for tank 552. Approximately 10 minutes later, MCS arrived at the HFS tank area, recognized an emergency condition, and immediately contacted emergency services. Coworkers subsequently used mechanical retrieval equipment to rescue the OMNI worker, who was then transported by ambulance for further medical evaluation.

Based on the investigation, the Office of Enforcement identified concerns with CSC's implementation of MCS worker safety and health program requirements at the site. The investigation revealed that MCS's *Worker Safety and Health Program* requires their subcontractors (i.e., CSC) to perform a defined scope of work. Specifically, MCS provided CSC with the *Statement of Work for Subcontract Safety Tech to Support HFS Tank Reline Activities at PAD DUF6 Conversion Project*, which specified CSC's responsibility to

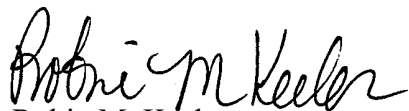
provide a safety technician to oversee general safety activities. These activities included overseeing confined space entries and ensuring the use of proper personal protective equipment.

To prepare for supporting the tank relining project, MCS provided approximately 40 hours of safety training to CSC, including DUF6 programs such as *Hazard Communication*, *Chemical Hazard Awareness*, and *Emergency Protective Actions*. As part of the hazard communication training, CSC reviewed the Chemlok® 286 adhesive safety data sheet, which specified that users wear impervious clothing. Despite this, on the day of the event, CSC observed the OMNI worker wearing permeable clothing, but did not require them to wear appropriate protective clothing for skin protection while applying the adhesive inside the tank. As a result, the OMNI worker experienced skin irritation on their abdomen, back, and buttocks which required medical attention. Additionally, CSC did not ensure prompt emergency notification, delaying the OMNI worker's access to necessary medical care following dermal exposure to the adhesive.

The Office of Enforcement has elected to issue this Enforcement Letter to convey concerns with CSC's implementation of Part 851 worker safety and health regulatory requirements, specifically for CSC's failure to ensure the OMNI worker used appropriate personal protective clothing and the delayed emergency notification, which resulted in postponed medical treatment. Issuance of this Enforcement Letter reflects DOE's decision to not pursue further enforcement activity against CSC at this time.

This letter imposes no requirements on CSC and no response is required. If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 903-7707, or your staff may contact Ms. Shannon Holman, Director, Office of Worker Safety and Health Enforcement, at (301) 903-0100.

Sincerely,



Robin M. Keeler
Acting Director
Office of Enforcement
Office of Enterprise Assessments

cc: Joel Bradburne, PPPO
Carisa Kremin, Mid-America Conversion Services, LLC