

50320-810923  
September 24, 1981

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-81-20A

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 NRC staff on this date.

Facility: Metropolitan Edison Company  
Three Mile Island, Unit 2  
Docket No. 50-320

Licensee Emergency Classification:  
X Not Applicable

Subject: REACTOR BUILDING SUMP/BASEMENT WATER PROCESSING (UPDATE)

Processing of the Reactor Building sump/basement water continued today using the Submerged Demineralizer System (SDS) (PNO-TMI-81-20). From 5:50 PM, September 23, 1981 to 2:50 PM, September 24, 1981 6,200 gallons were processed.

System performance data indicates a decontamination factor (OF) for cesium (Cs-137) of  $1.3 \times 10^5$  and  $2.3 \times 10^2$  for strontium (Sr-90). This represents an isotope removal efficiency of greater than 99%.

General area radiation levels at the pool area increased slightly as expected. There was no indication of radiological releases to the plant or offsite.

Media interest occurred because of public sensitivity to TMI related events in particular SDS operations. Further, the licensee scheduled a press conference for 10:30 AM, September 25, 1981. The NRC does not plan to issue a press release at this time. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was informed.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and provides updated information (PNO-TMI-81-20). NRC onsite 24-hour coverage will continue until processing of this batch is complete. Routine SDS status information will be subsequently reported in the NRC TMI Program Office Weekly Status Report.

The NRC TMI Program Office received notification of this occurrence by monitoring events as they occurred and this information was current as of 4:00 PM.

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