

IMMEDIATE
PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

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March 31, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-67F

This preliminary notification constitutes summary information of an event of safety or public interest significance. The information presented is a summary of information as of 5:30 pm date 3/31/79.

Facility: Three Mile Island Unit 2
Middletown, Pennsylvania (DN 50-320)

Subject: NUCLEAR INCIDENT AT THREE MILE ISLAND

Plant Status

There has been no change in the method of cooling the reactor since the previous report (PNO-79-67E). Reactor coolant temperatures measured by incore thermocouples at 52 locations have continued to decrease. At present none of the temperature readings is above saturation temperature for this pressure (554°F). System parameters remain stable. There has been a slight drop in pressurizer level from 215 to 191 inches.

Efforts continue to complete installation of components and piping on the hydrogen recombiner. Approximately 220 tons of lead shielding in various shapes and forms has arrived, or is on the way, to the site. Lead shielding is being installed around the recombiner. A decision to use the recombiner has not yet been made. Two samples of containment atmosphere have been analyzed which show hydrogen concentrations of 1.7 and 1.0%.

Efforts continue to estimate the volume of the noncondensable gas bubble above the core. Licensee calculations of the size of the bubble at 2:40 pm was 880 cubic feet at 875 psig. At about 4:20 pm this was recalculated by the licensee to be 621 cubic feet at 875 psig. This is being further evaluated.

Environmental Status

Three ARMS flights were conducted at about 6:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 12:00 noon on March 31. All flights reflected a rather stable situation. Maximum readings in the plume were from 1.5 to 2.5 milliroentgens per hour (mr/hr) at a distance of one mile from the plant, from 0.5 to 1.0 mr/hr out to 7 miles, and 0.1 to 0.2 mr/hr beyond 10 miles. The plume width is about 1-1/2 to 2 miles. No radioiodines have been detected in the plume. Offsite ground level gamma surveys performed in the predominant wind direction indicated maximum levels of about 2 mr/hr at about 1/2 mile from the site in the direction of the plume. The wind was from the SSW at the time of the

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ARMS flights. At about 1 PM the winds shifted and are now blowing in a south easterly direction.

International Contacts

NRC's Office of International Programs (OIP) has prepared daily status reports, transmitted by Immediate Department of State telegrams to official NRC contacts in the 25 foreign countries with which NRC has regular official relations. OIP is also receiving many foreign telephone calls.

Two senior safety experts from the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) arrived late March 30 and were briefed by NRC experts at the Operations Center, late March 30 and during March 31. Two French experts will arrive April 1. Washington Representatives or senior visitors of Japan, FRG, and Sweden also have been briefed in the Operations Center. OIP also has been briefing the President of the AECB of Canada, who offered to send any AECL or AECB experts who could be of assistance.

Contact with Licensee

NRC Regional Offices are transmitting to the utilities with operating licenses summary information (in the form of Preliminary Notifications) as they are prepared.

Contact: DThompson, IE x28111 EMHoward, IE x28111

Distribution: Transmitted H St 7:06p.

Chairman Hendrie
Commissioner Kennedy
Commissioner Gilinsky

Commissioner Bradford
Commissioner Ahearne

S. J. Chilk, SECY
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(For Distribution)

Transmitted: MNBB 7:10p

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SS Bldg 7:20p
W. J. Dircks, NMSS

J. G. Davis, IE
Region I - 7:50
Region II - 7:55
Region III - 8:15
Region IV - 8:21
Region V - 7:45
(MAIL)
J. J. Cummings, OIA
R. Minogue, SD

White House Situation Room 7:25p

EPA -

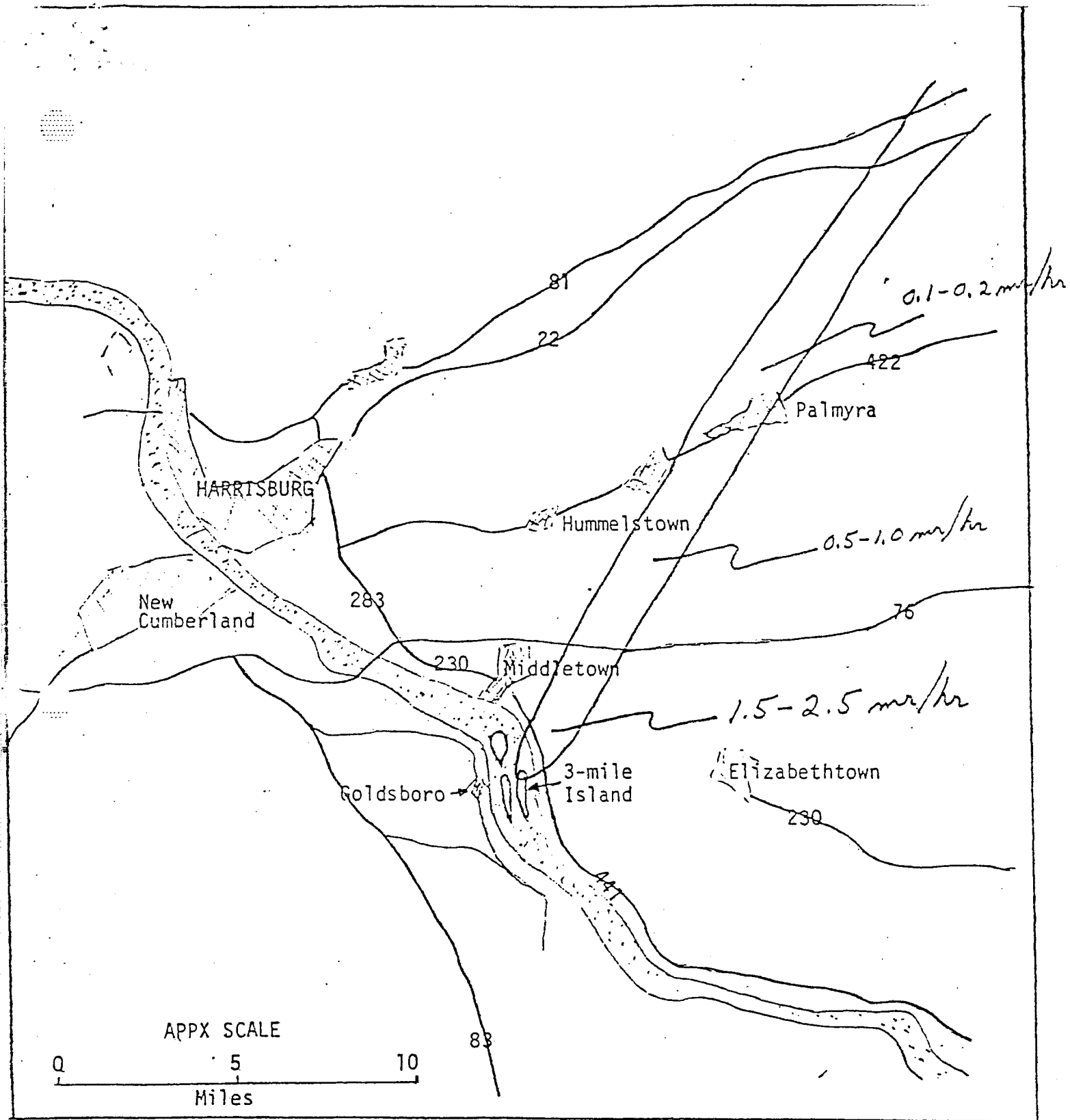
FDA/BRH -

DOE/EOC 8:05p.

Attachment (1)
Radiation Survey Map

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AERIAL SURVEY plume direction and radiation readings shown above conducted at 6:00 & 9:00 AM and 12:00 noon.