

IMMEDIATE
PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

April 12, 1979

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

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 7:00 a.m. on April 12, 1979.

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

Subject: NUCLEAR INCIDENT AT THREE MILE ISLAND

Plant Status

Bulk coolant inlet and outlet temperatures remain at approximately 280 degrees F. The peak core thermocouples remain less than 400 degrees F with the exception that one thermocouple read 401^oF during reduced pressure operation.

The degassing operations were completed at about 0115 on April 12, 1979. The minimum reactor coolant system pressure was 303 psig. Noise analysis evaluations indicate considerable degassing took place during these operations. Pressure is being returned to about 1000 psig and will be held at that level.

A second pressurizer level measuring channel failed at 2045 on April 11, 1979. There is one original pressurizer level channel still operating. An approved procedure is available for monitoring pressurizer level by balancing makeup tank level. Calibration of the Heise pressure gauge (backup level indicator installed several days ago) is planned during the current increase in pressure; it is expected this will provide an additional method of monitoring pressurizer level.

Cooling water flow was restored to the coolers in the containment at 0730 on April 11, 1979, and the containment temperatures have decreased from about 93 degrees F to about 85 degrees F. The hydrogen concentration in containment is about 1.6%.

Preliminary results of the primary coolant samples analyzed at Oak Ridge and Savannah River have been received. Very little uranium was identified in either sample, supporting previous analyses which formed the basis to conclude insignificant fuel melting occurred.

Changeout of the Auxiliary Building filters has commenced. Filters on its condenser vacuum pumps are expected to be operational today.

CONTINUED

Environmental Status

Offsite radiation levels identified by NRC survey teams range between 0.02 and 0.1 mR/hr. The radiation levels continue to be low. The results were obtained from routine surveys performed on the east and west sides of the Susquehanna River at distances up to five miles north and south of the site.

By 7:00 a.m. on April 12, one hundred seventy-six local residents were scanned with the whole-body counter which was set up in Middletown. The scan results reported do not indicate radiation levels above normal body levels. Over 650 individuals have signed up to be scanned.

The following Aerial Measuring System surveys were conducted on April 11. These were previously reported as ARMS surveys. Winds were calm during these surveys.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Max. Radiation Level</u>	<u>Distance from Site</u>
0917-0452	0.025 mR/hr	1 mile
1700-1735	0.010 mR/hr	1 mile

The State of Pennsylvania reported that an air sample taken at the observation center from April 2 to April 10 indicated 1.4 picocuries per cubic meter of iodine-131. The NRC took a 24-hour air sample near the observation center starting at 1600 hours on April 10, 1979. The results indicated 1.6 picocuries per cubic meter of iodine-131. The 10 CFR 20 limit for iodine-131 is 100 picocuries per cubic meter.

Dose rates (47 locations) as measured by NRC thermoluminescent dosimeters have ranged from 0.01 to 0.02 milliroentgens per hour for the past 24-hour period of April 11, 1979. These levels are in close agreement with expected natural background levels.

At 0100 hours on April 12, 1979, two tanks previously used as temporary storage for Unit 2 condensate storage tank overflow left the site for New Jersey to undergo some repair work. The tanks had been flushed previously and sample results from one tank indicated levels of radioactivity of 1×10^{-6} uCi/ml gross beta activity. While the truck drivers had obtained property releases for the tanks they had not obtained radiation safety releases. Shortly after the trucks departed the site, the error was realized. At the request

of the Unit 2 Shift Supervisor, NRC personnel contacted the Pennsylvania State Police and the truck from which the high gross beta activity sample was obtained was intercepted about 5 miles outside of Harrisburg and escorted back to the site where it arrived at about 0300 hours. The returned tank was surveyed and no leakage or external radiation levels were detected. A sample of the tank's residual liquid contents was taken and is being analyzed. The licensee is making procedural revisions to prevent recurrence of the problem.

Corrections:

PNO-79-67N, dated April 8 - Item b on page 3 listed the MPC for iodine-131 as 100 picocuries per liter. It should have read 300 picocuries per liter.

PNO-79-67R, dated April 11 - On page 2, the ARMS results were listed as 0.15 mR/hr for the 1833 to 1913 survey. It should have read 0.015 mR/hr. Also the ARMS surveys were described as being in sector 310° for the 0627-0800 survey and in sector 340° for the 1833 - 1913 survey. It should have read 130° and 160°, respectively.

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IE (TMI) Site 10:25 (Provide copy to STATE)
 White House Situation Room 10:17
 FDAA 9:47 (Provide copies to the Administrator and the Operations Center)
 EPA ~~11:10~~ 11:10
 DOE/EOC 10:38
 PEMA 12:45
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