

IMMEDIATE  
PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

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April 13, 1979

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

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 13, 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 thermocouple readings have declined to below 385 degrees F. The primary system pressure is being maintained between 950 psig and 1000 psig.

There are presently two of the three original pressurizer level channels in operation (the pressurizer level indicator that was reported to have failed on April 11 started to function again at 1955 on April 12 and has been tracking reasonably well). Calibration of the Heise pressure gauge is in progress. A differential pressure sensor is being installed on the pressurizer instrument lines in an attempt to provide an additional method of monitoring pressurizer level.

The hydrogen recombiner tripped off at 0115 on April 13 (burned out heaters). The hydrogen concentration in the containment building was about 1.5% at 2200 on April 12. A decision has not been made whether to replace the heaters or to initiate operation of the backup recombiner.

Environmental Status

The maximum offsite radiation level identified by NRC survey teams was 0.02 mR/hr. 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 4:15 p.m. on April 12, 214 local residents were scanned with the whole-body counter which was set up in Middletown. The scan results reported to not indicate radiation levels above normal body levels.

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The following Aerial Measuring System surveys were conducted on April 12. Winds were calm during these surveys.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Max. Radiation Level</u>	<u>Distance from Site</u>
0938 - 1016	0.03 mR/hr	1 mile
1510 - 1603	0.01 mR/hr	1000 feet

The NRC took a 24-hour air sample near the observation center starting at 1600 hours on April 11, 1979. The results indicated less than 2.2 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 for the past 24-hour period of April 12, are in close agreement with expected natural background levels.

Samples of air, water, soil and vegetation continue to be analyzed by Federal agencies. DOE reported the following positive results:

2 of 30 vegetation samples yielded 80 to 260 microcuries per square meter ( $\mu\text{Ci}/\text{m}^2$ ) iodine-131. The minimum detectable activity (MDA) is  $30 \mu\text{Ci}/\text{m}^2$ . The remaining 28 samples were below MDA. 12 soil samples were less than the MDA of  $600 \mu\text{Ci}/\text{m}^2$ .

All air and water analyses by DOE and EPA were less than the MPC in 10 CFR 20.

Exposures of Met Ed and Contractor personnel from March 29 to April 11 are:

<u>Dose Range (Whole Body Gamma)</u>	<u>Number in Range</u>
100 - 250 mrem	118
251 - 500 mrem	25
501 - 750 mrem	12
751 - 1000 mrem	2
1000 - 2000 mrem	3
2000 - 3000 mrem	0
3000 - 4000 mrem	3*

\* Reported in PNO-79-67K

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Contact: RCPaulus, IE x27246 DThompson, IE x28487

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