

IMMEDIATE  
PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

April 14, 1979

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

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 14, 1979.

Facility: Three Mile Island Unit 2  
Middletown, Pennsylvania (DN50-320)

Subject: NUCLEAR INCIDENT AT THREE MILE ISLAND

Plant Status:

At 1003 on April 13, 1979, cooldown of the primary coolant system was initiated marking the first step toward placing the reactor into natural circulation. It is anticipated that the primary system would be cooled from 280 degrees F to approximately 230 degrees F during this phase. As of 0200 on April 14, primary coolant temperature had decreased to approximately 250 degrees F and cooldown had slowed considerably. Four of the incore thermocouple readings remained above 300 degrees F with the highest at 350 degrees F.

A pressurized primary coolant sample was taken on April 13 and is being sent to Idaho Falls, Idaho for analysis by Allied Chemical. The sample left Harrisburg at 0400 on April 14 and estimated time of arrival at Idaho Falls is 0945 EST.

Environmental Status:

Offsite radiation levels identified by NRC survey teams were consistent with normal background levels (0.02 mR/hr maximum). 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 11:15 a.m. on April 13, 1979, 292 local residents were scanned with the whole body counter located in Middletown. Scan results indicate no radiation levels above normal body levels.

The following Aerial Measuring System surveys were conducted on April 13. Wind speed ranged from 14 to 16 mph. No defined plume was identified.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Max. Radiation Level</u>	<u>Distance from Site</u>
0908 - 0940	0.03 mR/hr	1000 feet
1454 - 1530	0.03 mR/hr	900 feet

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The NRC took a 24-hour air sample near the observation center starting at 1600 hours on April 12, 1979. The results indicated less than 1.5 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 13 are near expected natural background levels.

The State of Maryland reported finding less than 6 picocuries of iodine per liter of milk in 6 samples taken during April 7 to April 11. The milk samples were taken from farms around TMI.

Sixty-two EPA air samples collected on April 9 and 10, indicated no detectable activity, while six indicated activities which ranged from 0.092 to 0.81 picocuries per cubic meter of iodine-131. EPA samples of milk, soil, vegetation, water and various species of fish did not reveal any activity above background.

Correction to PNO-79-67E dated March 31, 1979. The initial report of licensee TLD data was based on a telephone report. The following is based on the TLD vendor's formal report. The first quarter 1979 TLD readings ranged from background to a high of 1044 mR at the licensee fence in the NNW sector. The highest reading TLD located in an offsite populated area was about 26 mR of which about 15 mR was background exposure. A TLD located midway across the north bridge about 0.3 miles NNE of the plant recorded 44 mR, including background. These revised estimates do not significantly affect previous estimates of population doses.

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Contact: RCPaulus, IE x27246 DThompson, IE x28487

Distribution: Transmitted H St 10:25  
Chairman Hendrie Commissioner Bradford S. J. Chilk, SECY  
Commissioner Kennedy Commissioner Ahearne C. C. Kammerer, CA  
Commissioner Gilinsky (For Distribution)

Transmitted: MNBB <u>10:28</u>	P. Bldg <u>10:32</u>	J. G. Davis, IE
L. V. Gossick, EDO	H. R. Denton, NRR	Region I <u>10:43</u>
H. L. Ornstein, EDO	R. C. DeYoung, NRR	Region II <u>10:50</u>
J. J. Fouchard, PA	R. J. Mattson, NRR	Region III <u>10:53</u>
N. M. Haller, MPA	V. Stello, NRR	Region IV <u>10:59</u>
R. G. Ryan, OSP	R. S. Boyd, NRR	Region V <u>11:04</u>
H. K. Shapar, ELD	SS Bldg <u>10:36</u>	(MAIL)
	W. J. Dircks, NMSS	J. J. Cummings, OIA
	S. Levine, RES	R. Minogue, SD

IE (TMI) Site 10:39 (Provide copy to STATE)  
White House Situation Room 1324  
FDAA 13:04 (Provide copies to the Administrator and the Operations Center)  
EPA  
DOE/EOS 11:11  
PEMA  
BRP (State of PA) 1407  
DCPA 1345  
HEW (Pickup)

Handcarry (FAA)

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