

NEW

IMMEDIATE
PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

April 28, 1979

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

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 28, 1979.

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

Subject: NUCLEAR INCIDENT AT THREE MILE ISLAND

Plant Status

The average coolant temperature is 179 degrees F. Steam is being admitted to the main condenser through the turbine bypass valves from the A Steam Generator. The highest incore temperature reading is 319 degrees F.

Pressurizer level Lt-3 failed at 9:15 a.m. on April 27. Pressurizer level is now being monitored by the back-up Heise Gauge and a mass balance calculation. Because of the degradation of the level instrumentation natural circulation was initiated ahead of schedule. Reactor Coolant Pump 2A was shut down at 2:08 p.m. on April 27 and natural circulation was established on both Steam Generators.

Increasing levels of radioactivity were noted shortly after the start of steaming the B Steam Generator. Offsite monitoring was conducted and the levels returned to natural background levels within three to four hours.

Steaming of the B Steam Generator was stopped at 1:10 a.m., April 28 due to an indicated increase in the level of ventilation stack activity. This indication was later found to be in error. Natural circulation is continuing on the A Steam Generator.

Environmental Status

Aerial Measuring System (AMS) surveys were conducted from late morning until 6:00 p.m. on April 27. Xe-133 activity was detected up to 10 miles downwind (SSE). Maximum readings were 0.2 mR/hr. No iodine was detected during aerial surveys.

Offsite Measurements

Radiation Levels

Offsite radiation levels indentified by NRC survey teams were consistent with the AMS Survey. Readings from background to 0.35 mR/hr were present in SSE direction from the site.

Dose rates (47 locations as measured by NRC thermoluminescent dosimeters (TLDs) for the past 24 hour period continue to be consistent with natural background levels.

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NRC Environmental Samples (Samples taken offsite within 3 miles of site analyzed in mobile laboratory)

<u>Sample Type</u>	<u>Date of Sample</u>	<u>Number of Samples</u>	<u>Results</u>
air	4/27	17	Less than MDA*
daily air	4/26-27	1	Less than MDA

EPA Environmental Samples (Analyzed at Remote Laboratory)

<u>Sample Type</u>	<u>Date of Sample</u>	<u>Number of Samples</u>	<u>Results</u>
air	4/25-26	5	Less than MDA
air	4/25-26	1	3.4 x 10 ⁻¹³ microcuries per cubic centimeter (0.34 picocuries per cubic meter) I-131
discharge water	4/21-26	7	Less than MDA

All EPA samples were taken at distances greater than 2 miles from the site

*MDA - minimum detectable activity.

EPA provided spike milk samples on 4/27/79 for interlab comparison of analytical methods by each agency performing milk analysis.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed of these results.

Contact:

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