



UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NOTE TO EDITORS: The information below was issued at approximately 5 p.m. EST.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has received additional information from its inspectors at the Three Mile Island Power Plant in Pennsylvania where an accident occurred earlier today. This updates the NRC announcement made earlier today.

No injuries have been reported. Low levels of radiation have been measured off the plant site. The maximum confirmed radiation reading was about three milliroentgens per hour about one-third mile from the site. At one mile, a reading of one milliroentgen per hour was measured. It is believed that this is principally direct radiation coming from radioactive material within the reactor containment building, rather than from release of radioactive materials from the containment. Extensive efforts are continuing by the State of Pennsylvania, the Department of Energy, and the NRC to measure the amount of radioactive material which may have been released from the site. A helicopter with special instruments also is being used.

It now appears that the cause of the turbine shutdown at the plant early today was a reduction in flow of feedwater to the steam generators.

The sequence of events which led to the release of radioactivity to the reactor containment building has not been determined. There was a release of primary coolant water to the containment. Emergency core cooling systems are continuing to provide water to cool the fuel. The reactor is shut down. The pressure in the reactor system is being slowly reduced.

NRC has a team of six persons at the site. They will participate in the NRC investigation of the event. The results will be made public. An NRC team also is being formed to monitor the subsequent activities of the licensee, the Metropolitan Edison Company.

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