

TRAILER

11	10
9	8

# TRAILER CITY NEWS

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## NRC ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE

The NRC staff Tuesday announced a timetable for placing Unit 2 on natural circulation cooling and reported on other plant activities. NRC said it is now possible to cool the reactor by natural convection circulation if difficulties arise with presently operating equipment. It is preferable to place the plant on natural circulation in a planned fashion while presently available plant instruments and equipment remain functioning. However, if instrumentation in the plant does not retain its reliability and the various backup methods presently available do not function adequately, it may be necessary to place the plant on natural circulation at that time.

NRC reported that the excessive non-condensable gases in the system have been removed and are now at an acceptable level. The phased reduction in primary system temperature has now reached approximately 175 degrees Fahrenheit. This reduction in temperature is greater than originally anticipated with stemming in the steam generator A.

Assuming current instrumentation continues to perform satisfactorily, the NRC established a timetable for a planned transition to natural circulation.

- The "B" steam generator will be placed in a water solid condition by April 29th.
- The "A" steam generator will be placed in a water solid condition by April 30th.
- Action needed to upgrade the backup cooling capability of the existing decay heat removal system will be completed by May 1.
- With these steps completed, the primary system recirculation pump will be shut off on May 2nd and the system will then go into natural circulation.

## OTHER PLANT ACTIVITIES

- Radioactive effluent filter systems within the plant have been upgraded. An independent redundant closed filter system, which will serve as a second stage of removal, has been under construction for some time. The new system is expected to be operational by May 2nd.
- Modifications are currently in progress that will permit the secondary side of the "B" steam generator to be operated in a closed system, i.e., without the need for the availability of the main condenser. This activity is scheduled for completion for May 7th. Closed loop cooling

of steam generator B is not essential to establish stable natural circulation cooling.

- The "A" steam generator also will be modified to permit operation in a closed system. This modification also is not required to establish natural circulation. Its schedule for completion is currently estimated to be the middle of May.
- A passive level and pressure control system that will augment existing plant systems is expected to be completed by mid-May. This system is not needed to achieve natural circulation, but it is prudent to add this redundancy to the existing plant equipment for long term monitoring of natural circulation cooling.
- Modifications on the onsite electrical system are currently being made. Additional diesel generators have been delivered to the site to provide a backup power supply, and are currently being placed on their foundations. Electrical instrumentation and other necessary connections will be completed by April 27th.
- There are a number of additional modifications being made within the facility that are related to the long term recovery from the accident. Such modifications include: adding an additional decay heat removal system with equipment to process and remove the radioactive materials from the primary coolant system; the installation of additional tanks to provide for storage of contaminated water that may result from decontamination activities; installation of additional contaminated water processing equipment, and general decontamination activities needed in the auxiliary building.

PUC TO HOLD HEARINGS ON NET-ED RATES

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission announced yesterday that it would hold a series of hearings on Mat-Ed's \$49 million rate increase, already approved but suspended for six months pending an "investigation" of the causes of the nuclear accident at TMI Unit 2. It is anticipated that the hearings will last throughout May.

The hearings have been scheduled so far, with two set aside for hearing the public's side of the controversy surrounding the proposed new rate structure. The hearings will be held in Harrisburg and Reading, and elsewhere if the Commission chooses.

Harrisburg hearings will be May 2, 8, 9, 22, 23, 29 and 30. The hearing in Reading is slated for May 14.