

November 8, 1985
NRC/TMI-85-088

MEMORANDUM FOR: Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: William D. Travers, Acting Director
TMI Program Office

SUBJECT: NRC TMI PROGRAM OFFICE WEEKLY STATUS REPORT FOR
NOVEMBER 4, 1985 - NOVEMBER 8, 1985

1. DEFUELING

Six entries were made during the week for movement of fuel debris. The objective was to excavate an area in the debris bed such that the Canister Positioning System (CPS), when loaded with defueling canisters, can rotate without interference. Approximately 2,000 lbs. of debris, consisting mainly of end fittings and attached fuel rods, were moved from the northern quadrants within the reactor vessel to the southern regions. By the end of the final defueling entry this week, it appeared that the objective had been accomplished. During next week's entry for defueling, video inspections will be made to verify the clearance for the CPS. Any remaining partial assemblies or rods that may still be sticking up above the debris bed (308' elevation) will be removed.

The average dose rate to each defueling worker was about 25 to 35 mrem per entry or about 10 mrem per hour. This indicates that fuel movement has not increased the dose rates in areas of the building occupied by defueling workers. Air samples also indicate no significant increase in airborne activity. The NRC is closely monitoring the defueling activities to ensure that operations are conducted safely in accordance with applicable procedures.

2. PLANT STATUS

- The facility remains in long term cold shutdown with the Reactor Coolant System (RCS) vented to the reactor building atmosphere and the reactor vessel head and plenum assembly removed from the reactor vessel.
- The plenum is on its storage stand in the deep end of the fuel transfer canal. A dam has been installed between the deep and shallow ends of the fuel transfer canal. The deep end is filled with water to a depth of about 20 feet (about 5 feet above the top of the plenum).

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- The modified internals indexing fixture is installed on the reactor vessel flange and is flooded to elevation 327 feet 5 inches (15 1/2 feet above the top of the core region). The defueling platform is installed over the Internal Indexing Fixture in preparation for defueling.
- Calculated reactor decay heat is less than 12 kilowatts.
- RCS cooling is by natural heat loss to the reactor building ambient atmosphere. Incore thermocouple readings range from 71°F to 95°F with an average of 83°F.
- The average reactor building temperature is 55°F. The reactor building airborne activity at the Westinghouse platform is 1.8 E-7 uCi/cc Tritium and 1.1 E-9 uCi/cc particulate, predominantly Cesium 137.
- Spent Fuel Pool "A" is flooded to a depth of 20 feet. About 5 feet of water is over fuel canister storage racks.

3. WASTE MANAGEMENT

- The Submerged Demineralizer System (SDS) completed processing batch 125, Fuel Transfer Canal through Train No. 1. A total of 293,369 gallons was processed in Batch 125. Processing of batch 126 commenced. Fuel Transfer Canal recycle through both Trains and "B" cation sand filter.
- EPICOR II is temporarily shutdown while changing out liners.
- Total volume processed through SDS to date is 3,174,794 gallons, and the total volume processed through EPICOR II is 2,700,737 gallons.

4. DOSE REDUCTION/DECONTAMINATION ACTIVITIES

- Decontamination activities are continuing on the 281' level of the auxiliary building. Scabbling of reactor coolant bleed tank cubicles is in progress.
- Average general area radiation dose rate is 40 mrem per hour on the 347' level of the reactor building and is 57 mrem per hour on the 395' level of the reactor building.
- Decontamination of the pressurizer and "A" D-ring is in progress.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

- US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sample analysis results show THI site liquid effluents to be in accordance with regulatory limits, NRC requirements, and the City of Lancaster Agreement.
- THI water samples taken by EPA at the plant discharge to the river consisted of seven daily composite samples taken from October 20 through October 26, 1985. A gamma scan detected no reactor related activity.
- The Lancaster water sample taken at the water works intake and analyzed by EPA consisted of a seven day composited sample taken from October 20 through October 26, 1985. A gamma scan detected no reactor related radioactivity.

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- The NRC outdoor airborne particulate sampler at the TMI Site collected a sample between October 30 and November 7, 1985. No reactor related radioactivity was detected. Analysis showed Iodine-131 and Cesium-137 concentrations to be less than the lower limits of detectability.

6. REACTOR BUILDING ACTIVITIES

- The initial phase of defueling the reactor core is in progress.
- Defueling Water Cleanup System (DWCS) preoperational testing and modification continued.
- Installation of the vacuum defueling system is in progress.
- Work is in progress on the canister positioning system.
- An integrated test of the canister handling bridges of the Reactor Building and the Fuel Handling Building and the Fuel Transfer Canal is in progress. This will be accomplished by transfer of a canister from the Fuel Transfer Canal to the Spent Fuel Pool through each of the Fuel Transfer Tubes.

7. AUXILIARY AND FUEL HANDLING BUILDING ACTIVITIES

- Installation of the DWCS continued. Partial DWCS turnover for processing RCS during early defueling is expected to be completed in October.
- Spent Fuel Pool has been flooded to a depth of about 20 feet (about 6 feet above the top of the fuel canister storage racks).

8. NRC EVALUATIONS IN PROGRESS

- Technical Specification Change Request number 49.
- Recovery Operations Plan Change number 31.
- Defueling Safety Evaluation.
- SDS Technical Evaluation and System Description Update.
- Core Stratification Sample Safety Evaluation.
- Heavy Load Handling Safety Evaluation Report.
- Defueling Water Cleanup System Technical Evaluation Report, Revision 7.
- Containment Air Control Envelope Technical Evaluation Report, Revision 5.

9. PUBLIC MEETING

The next meeting of the Advisory Panel is scheduled for 11:00 AM, November 19, 1985, in Washington, DC, before the NRC Commissioners. The next meeting in the TMI area is scheduled for December 12, 1985, at the Harrisburg, PA Holiday Inn, 23 South Second Street, Harrisburg, PA, from 7:00 PM to approximately 10:00 PM.

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Persons desiring the opportunity to speak before the Panel are asked to contact Mr. Thomas Smithgell at 717-291-1042 or write to him at 2122 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17503.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:
William D. Travers

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Acting Director
THI Program Office

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