

November 18, 1985
NRC/THI-85-091

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

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

SUBJECT: NRC THI PROGRAM OFFICE WEEKLY STATUS REPORT FOR
NOVEMBER 9, 1985 - NOVEMBER 17, 1985

1. DEFUELING

Following the successful integrated testing of the defueling canister transfer systems in the Reactor Building and the Fuel Building, two fuel canisters were loaded into the sleeves of the Canister Positioning System (CPS). The debris bed in the region of the CPS has been excavated such that the CPS is free to rotate with the canister bottoms at the 308'6" elevation. The Defueling Water Cleanup System (DWCS) is functioning with its four filter canisters installed in the deep end of the fuel transfer canal. On November 12, 1985, General Public Utilities Nuclear (GPUN) Corporation received permission from the NRC onsite staff to load the fuel canisters with fuel debris. Using the vise grip tool, the defueling workers placed into a fuel canister the first piece of debris, a broken piece of fuel rod. On November 14, 1985, defueling workers picked and placed the first piece of endfitting into the fuel canister. Difficulties were encountered with endfittings which are fused together. Fused endfittings have to be separated in order to fit into the fuel canisters. The licensee is evaluating methods to separate these fused endfittings.

A typical defueling team consists of a radiation control technician, two tool operators, an equipment controls panel operator, a camera operator, and an NRC licensed fuel handling senior reactor operator who is in continuous direct communication with the rest of the team. NRC staff observations indicate that licensee performance to date has been excellent. Defueling operators have demonstrated a thorough knowledge of procedures and safety precautions.

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.

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- 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).
- The modified internals indexing fixture is installed on the reactor vessel flange and is flooded to elevation 327 feet 6 inches (15 1/2 feet above the top of the core region). The defueling platform is installed over the Internal Indexing Fixture 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 60°F. The reactor building airborne activity at the Westinghouse platform is 1.2 E-7 uCi/cc Tritium and 8.9 E-10 uCi/cc particulate, predominantly Cesium 137.
- Spent Fuel Pool "A" is flooded to a depth of 20 feet. About 6 feet of water is over fuel canister storage racks.

3. WASTE MANAGEMENT

- One train of the reactor vessel filtration portions of DWCS was started on November 13, 1985. The system operated for about 11 hours before being shutdown when filter differential pressure reached the procedural limit. It is believed that the filters plugged quickly when loaded with the very fine (less than 0.5 micron) particles initially in suspension in the RCS. It was then operated intermittently at reduced flow rates until November 15, 1985. The short period of operation substantially improved the RCS water clarity. The DWCS filter effluent turbidity remained at 0.1 to 0.2 NTU's. On November 15, 1985, the second train was placed in operation.
- Processing of batch 126 continues, Fuel Transfer Canal recycle through both Trains and "B" cation sand filter. A total of 181,155 gallons has been processed in batch 126 to-date.
- EPICOR II is temporarily shutdown while changing out liners.
- Total volume processed through SDS to date is 3,373,117 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. Scobbling 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 67 mrem per hour on the 305' level of the reactor building.
- Decontamination of the pressurizer and "A" D-ring is in progress.

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5. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

- US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sample analysis results show TMI site liquid effluents to be in accordance with regulatory limits, NRC requirements, and the City of Lancaster Agreement.
- TMI water samples taken by EPA at the plant discharge to the river consisted of seven daily composite samples taken from October 27 through November 2, 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 27 through November 2, 1985. A gamma scan detected no reactor related radioactivity.
- The NRC outdoor airborne particulate sampler at the TMI Site collected a sample between November 7 and November 13, 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.
- Installation of the vacuum defueling system is in progress.

7. AUXILIARY AND FUEL HANDLING BUILDING ACTIVITIES

- Installation of the balance DWCS continued.
- 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.
- SDS Technical Evaluation and System Description Update.
- Core Stratification Sample Safety Evaluation.
- Defueling Water Cleanup System Technical Evaluation Report, Revision 7.
- Containment Air Control Envelope Technical Evaluation Report, Revision 5.
- Solid Waste Facility Technical Evaluation Report.

9. PUBLIC HEETING

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 Smithgall at 717-291-1042 or write to him at 2122 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603.

-signed by P.J. Grant for-

William D. Travers
Acting Director
TMI Program Office

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