

November 25, 1985  
NRC/TMI-85-094

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 18, 1985 - NOVEMBER 24, 1985

1. DEFUELING

On November 18, 1985, the licensee modified their immediate defueling strategy from that of pick and place to that of cutting the distorted fuel rods. Defueling progress has been slow due to interferences and inability to separate fused endfittings. The licensee is cutting fuel rods to reduce the interference and improve packing density in the fuel canisters. A problem developed during the week with the defueling tools hydraulic system. Boron in the system plated out on system filters which caused the system to be shutdown on high filter differential pressure. The fluid is being replaced by an alternate approved hydraulic fluid that has boron in solution. Defueling should recommence on November 26, 1985. Photographic mapping of the debris bed has been accomplished during the delay. NRC staff observations indicate licensee is continuing to aggressively pursue problem areas and is making improvements that should enhance overall defueling efficiency.

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).
- The modified internals indexing fixture is installed on the reactor vessel flange and is flooded to elevation 327 feet 6 inches (154 feet above the top of the core region). The defueling platform is installed over the Internal Indexing Fixture for defueling.

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- 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 56°F. The reactor building airborne activity at the Westinghouse platform is 1.2 E-7 uCi/cc Tritium and 2.5 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

- Both trains of the reactor vessel filtration portions of the defueling water cleanup system (DWCS) have been shutdown when the filter differential pressure reached the procedural limit. Evaluation is in progress of the particulate suspension in the RCS. A procedure has been approved to backwash the filters.
- Submerged Demineralizer System (SDS) processing of batch 126 continues. Fuel Transfer Canal recycle through both Trains and "B" cation sand filter. A total of 319,705 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 3,511,567 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 67 mrem per hour on the 305' 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 November 3 through November 9, 1985. A gamma scan detected no reactor related activity.

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- The Lancaster water sample taken at the water works intake and analyzed by EPA consisted of a seven day composited sample taken from November 3 through November 9, 1985. A gamma scan detected no reactor related radioactivity.
- The NRC outdoor airborne particulate sampler at the TMI Site collected a sample between November 13 and November 20, 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 MEETING

The Advisory Panel for the Decontamination of TMI-2 met with the Commissioners in Washington, DC on November 19, 1985. At that meeting the Panel informed the Commission of their recent briefings by GPUW on defueling plans. Additional topics of discussion included: (1) licensee measures to prevent criticality during defueling, (2) licensee schedule for conducting defueling activities, (3) panel activities related to TMI-2 accident health effects issues, and (4) status of licensee plans for disposition of processed accident water.

The Panel also informed the Commission of its plans for discussing issues at future panel meeting.

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The next meeting of the Advisory Panel is scheduled for December 12, 1985, at the Holiday Inn, 23 South Second Street, Harrisburg, PA, from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

At that meeting GPOH will provide a status of defueling activities and Mr. and Mrs. Aamodt will provide information regarding their health effects evaluations.

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.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY  
William D. Travers

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