

FEB 23 1989

Docket Nos. 50-289; 50-320

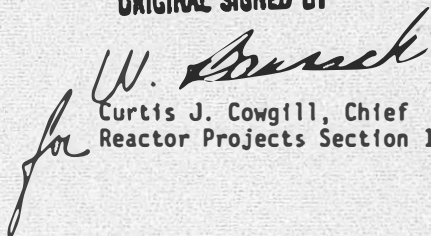
MEMORANDUM FOR: Lee H. Bettenhausen, Chief, Projects Branch No. 1, Division  
of Reactor Projects

FROM: Curtis J. Cowgill, Chief, Reactor Projects Section 1A

SUBJECT: TMI STATUS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 14 - FEBRUARY 17, 1989

Enclosed is the TMI Resident Office monthly status report, which covers both TMI-1 and TMI-2. This report is to provide NRC management and the public with highlights of significant events at TMI-1 and TMI-2 from an NRC regulatory perspective.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

*for*   
Curtis J. Cowgill, Chief  
Reactor Projects Section 1A

Enclosure: As Stated

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MONTHLY STATUS REPORT - 0001.0.011  
11/29/80

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PDR ADOCK 05000289  
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*IEDS*

FEB 29 1980

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MONTHLY STATUS REPORT - 0002.0.0  
11/29/80

## ENCLOSURE

### TMI-1 AND TMI-2 STATUS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 14 - FEBRUARY 17, 1989

#### 1. TMI-1

##### a. Facility Operations Summary

During the report period, the licensee operated the plant at full power. As of February 17, 1989, the TMI-1 reactor was at 100 percent power with Tave at 579 F and the Reactor Coolant system (RCS) at 2155 psig.

##### b. Items of Special Interest

###### Relief Valve Failure

On February 14, 1989 at approximately 5:45 p.m., a relief valve on the second stage feedwater heater (No. 2B) unseated and released steam to the atmosphere. The steam was second stage extraction steam from the high pressure turbine being used to heat the main feedwater entering the steam generators. Initial efforts to reseal the valve by temporarily gagging it were unsuccessful. The valve remained open for approximately 20 hours until a temporary modification was made to gag the valve for an indefinite time period. A replacement valve has been obtained and will be installed at the next available outage. The licensee compensated for the loss of the pressure relief protection for the heater by caution tagging valves to ensure that a parallel heater (No. 2A) remains cross-connected to the affected heater.

A minor amount of radioactivity was released during the event due to minute amounts of contaminants in the secondary side of the steam generator. The licensee calculated that a total of 2.27 microcuries of Iodine-131 and 1051 microcuries of noble gas was released. These releases will result in an offsite dose of 4.9 E-3 millirem and 2.37 E-6 millirem, respectively. These quantities were determined to be well within regulatory limits specified in Appendix I to 10 CFR Part 50 for gaseous releases.

#### 2. TMI-2

##### a. Facility Activities Summary

Following removal of the Incore Guide Support Plate from the vessel on January 12, 1989, defueling resumed. Using pick and place methods and the air lifting tools, debris was removed from atop and below the Elliptical Flow Distributor (EFD). Approximately 24,000 pounds of debris were removed during this reporting period. About 67,000 pounds of material remain.

Defueling efforts will continue until a production rate of 4000 pounds per week can no longer be maintained. Following a drop-off in the defueling rate, the plasma-arc cutting equipment will be re-installed in the vessel, then the EFD will be cut and removed. Removal of the EFD will facilitate defueling in the reactor lower head.

During this period, tests were conducted to characterize the material located on the lower head. Results of these tests are undergoing evaluation; however, preliminary indications are that a solid slab of re-solidified material extends from the northwest sector to the southeast sector of the lower head, covering the central one-third width of the head. Tests will be performed on this material to determine its consistency and the methods in which it can be broken up and removed.

b. Items of Special Interest

On February 19, 1989, the licensee made the eighteenth rail shipment of core debris to the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. To date, 259 canisters have been shipped to the Department of Energy facility.

3. NRC Staff Activities

The NRC staff assigned on site at the beginning of the period consisted of the senior resident inspector, three resident inspectors, a project manager (for TMI-2), and a secretary.

The staff was reduced to one senior resident inspector and two resident inspectors on January 30. R. Conte, who had been the previous senior resident, was transferred to the NRC Region I office for another permanent assignment. Additionally, the site staff secretary resigned on February 10. Both positions will be filled in the future. A new senior resident will be assigned on April 2, 1989.

a. Inspection Reports

During this period, Region I issued the following inspection reports.

- TMI-1 Inspection Report No. 50-289/88-28 on February 2, 1989, addressing routine inspections of operations activities.
- TMI-1 Inspection Report No. 50-289/88-32 on January 9, 1989, addressing an inspection of the technical and safety review process.

On January 31, 1989, the NRC staff issued a safety evaluation and approval letter regarding criticality safety during plasma arc cutting. This approval allows extended use of the plasma arc torch over that previously authorized. The new authorized areas include the upper core support assembly baffle plates and the core support shield.

#### 4. Public Meetings

The Advisory Panel for the Decontamination of TMI-2 met on Thursday, February 16, 1989. The panel was briefed on the status of NRC actions and the status of the cleanup. The GPU Nuclear staff described the evaporator which is proposed to dispose of the accident-generated water. The Advisory Panel questioned the GPU Nuclear representatives about scheduling and funding.

The next meeting of the Advisory Panel is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 1989. The meeting location will be at the Holiday Inn Center City, 23 South Second Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Persons desiring to speak before the Advisory Panel are asked to contact Mr. Thomas Smithgall at 211 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 17603 (telephone: 717-291-1041).