

NOV 15 1989

Docket Nos. 50-289; 50-320

MEMORANDUM FOR: Edward C. Wenzinger, Chief
Projects Branch No. 4
Division of Reactor Projects

FROM: Curtis J. Cowgill, Chief
Reactor Projects Section 4B

SUBJECT: TMI STATUS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 17 -
OCTOBER 16, 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:

Curtis J. Cowgill, Chief
Reactor Projects Section 4B

Enclosure: As Stated

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ENCLOSURE

TMI-1 AND TMI-2 STATUS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD

SEPTEMBER 17 - OCTOBER 16, 1989

1. TMI-1

a. Facility Operations Summary

TMI Unit 1 operated at full power during this report period, completing 292 days of continuous operation on October 16, 1989. No significant events or challenges to plant safety systems occurred during this period.

2. TMI-2

a. Facility Activities Summary

During this report period, defueling crews worked to remove baffle plates and vacuum loose debris from the core former plates. As of October 16, seven of eight baffle plates have been removed. After the baffle plates have been removed, defueling of the lower core support assembly will commence. Approximately 14,000 pounds of material remain in the vessel.

Following completion of defueling, a number of samples will be taken of the lower head and incore instrumentation nozzles. These samples will be analyzed to assess the effects the accident had on the reactor vessel.

Assembly work continued on the evaporator/vaporizer system to be used to process accident generated water (AGW). The unit is undergoing system component and initial pre-operational tests. In late October the licensee plans to run surrogate tests to verify operability of the system under operating conditions prior to processing AGW.

The licensee also completed tests to characterize the crack indications observed around E-7 and G-6 incore instrumentation nozzles on the lower head. The cracks were attributed to "hot tears" in the stainless steel vessel cladding with a depth of approximately 3/32 inches.

b. Potential Overexposure to Ionizing Radiation

On September 25, 1989, two workers received a radiation dose to their extremities (hands and wrists) that may exceed the code of federal regulations, part 20 limit of 18.75 Rems.

The workers were in the Unit 2 reactor building decontamination facility when they inadvertently handled a small piece of reactor core debris. The piece of core debris was returned to the reactor vessel. The licensee is performing dose assessments for the individuals.

3. NRC Staff Activities

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

a. Inspection Reports

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

- Combined Inspection Report for TMI 1 and 2, 50-289/89-16 and 50-320/89-07, addressing the solid radioactive waste systems, transportation, and liquid and gaseous effluents programs.
- TMI-1 Inspection Report 50-287/89-17, addressing licensee corrective actions relative to a previous inspection finding concerning modification of the condenser vent stack continuous iodine sampler; determination of the iodine through; correction factor for the dose commitment; and counting geometry for the charcoal cartridge.
- TMI-1 Inspection Report 50-289/89-19 (OL) where a written examination was administered to one reactor operator candidate who previously failed the written portion of the exam. The candidate passed the examination and was issued a license.
- TMI-2 Inspection Report 50-320/89-04 addressing defueling and decontamination activities, including proper implementation of radiological controls, housekeeping measures, and licensee actions on previous inspection findings.

b. NRR Licensing Actions

Environmental Impact Statement

The NRC staff published Final Supplement Number 3 to the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) related to decontamination and disposal of radioactive wastes resulting from the March 28, 1979 accident at Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 2. PEIS Supplement Number 3 deals with the licensee's proposal to place the facility in post-defueling monitored storage (PDMS). Single copies are available free, to the extent of supply, upon written request to the Office of Information Resources Management, Distribution Section, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555.

c. Monthly Status Report

As the defueling activities at TMI-2 near completion, a monthly status report is no longer merited. Licensee activities and the activities of the NRC staff will continue to be addressed in routine inspection reports. Accordingly, this is to advise readers that the monthly status report will discontinue once reactor vessel defueling is completed.

4. Public Meetings

The Advisory Panel for the Decontamination of TMI-2 met on Thursday, September 21, 1989. The NRC staff briefed the panel members on Final Supplement 3 to the PEIS. GPUN personnel briefed the panel members on environmental monitoring, and clean-up progress, plans and schedules. The panel members also discussed final decommissioning schedule and potential costs. The next panel meeting will be held in January 1990. The time, date and location will be announced via press releases and a future monthly status report.