

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

January 16, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-06

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Metropolitan Edison Company
Three Mile Island Unit 2
Middletown, Pennsylvania
(DN 50-320)

Subject: MAIN STEAM ATMOSPHERIC RELIEF VALVE DISCHARGE PIPING
BELLOWS RUPTURE

About 3:30 p.m. on January 15, 1979, a routine turbine trip test was conducted at 15% rated power during plant startup. Subsequently, condenser vacuum degraded for an undetermined cause, resulting in turbine bypass valve closure and main steam bypass relief and atmospheric relief valves lifting. During this transient the atmospheric relief valve discharge piping bellows ruptured, releasing steam to the Control Area (located between the Control Building and Auxiliary Building). Preliminary review indicates that no Technical Specification limits were exceeded during the event, however, an automatic reactor trip occurred.

No personnel injuries or damage to safety - related equipment occurred during the event. Equipment damage included loss of pressurizer heaters due to motor control center exposure to steam. The plant is being taken to cold shutdown to continue investigation of possible component damage and complete necessary repairs. Plant operation is expected to resume in 4-5 days.

Media interest is expected because of inquiries from local reporters following the event. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed. A press release is planned by the licensee.

NRC, Region I, (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Unit 2 Superintendent-Technical Support on January 15, 1979.

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