

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

*BPM*

July 31, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-297

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events 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 1  
50-289/50-320

SUBJECT: LIQUID DISCHARGE TO SUSQUEHANNA RIVER

On July 26, 1979, an on-site NRC inspector discovered that a total beta activity analysis was not performed on an ongoing discharge of the waste evaporator condensate storage tank, (WECST). Upon notification the licensee's management immediately terminated the liquid discharge. Subsequent analysis<sup>7</sup> and evaluation showed that the total unidentified beta activity was  $1.8 \times 10^7$  microcuries/milliliter (uCi/ml) at the discharge point to the river, which had exceeded the regulatory instantaneous release limit for unidentified beta activity of  $1 \times 10^4$  uCi/ml.

The licensee's liquid discharge procedures were upgraded to require analysis of total beta activity in the WECST prior to discharge to the river which will insure that necessary analyses and evaluation are performed in the future.

The event is being covered by newspapers and television. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed.

A news briefing was held by the licensee.

NRC, Region I, (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by telephone call from the resident office staff on July 27, 1979, at 9:00 a.m.

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