

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

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August 7, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-314

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, Units 1 and 2
Middletown, Pennsylvania
(Docket Nos. 50-289 and 50-320)

Subject: CONTAINMENT PENETRATION FOR SAMPLING

The licensee has made preparations to provide a direct sampling capability in the containment while maintaining constant containment isolation. An existing but unused penetration will be modified to provide a sampling point by boring a hole through a blank flange. The penetration will be approximately two feet above the water line, and the boring operation is scheduled for August 8. Radiological aspects of the modification have been considered in the procedure, which was reviewed and approved by NRC personnel onsite. The licensee has also conducted an evaluation addressing concerns of 10 CFR 50.59, "Changes, Tests, and Experiments," and concluded that the procedure will not have an adverse environmental impact.

The PN is for informational purposes only.

Media interest is expected because of the public sensitivity to Three Mile Island activities. 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 a telephone call from the IE Resident Office at TMI at 2:00 p.m., August 7, 1979.

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