

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

August 15, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-336

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: RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION ON HANDS OF WORKER

An individual contaminated the fingers of both hands between 3 and 4 p.m. on August 13, 1979 at the "Respirator Face Mask and Cleaning Facility," when he picked up a torn bag of respirators without wearing protective gloves. A radiation survey was performed and showed 100,000 dpm and 8,000 dpm on his right fingers and left fingers, respectively. An additional radiation survey was performed, after decontamination efforts, and showed 35,000 dpm and 1,500 dpm on his right fingers and left fingers, respectively. The individual was sent home about 4:30 p.m. with both hands in surgeon gloves. Decontamination efforts are to resume on August 14, 1979, when the individual returns to work. A whole body count will be conducted on August 14, 1979 when the decontamination efforts are completed. The results of the decontamination efforts and whole body counts will be reviewed by the NRC inspector on site.

Media interest is expected because of the public sensitivity to Three Mile Island activities. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was informed at 1:35 p.m. on August 14, 1979. 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 on August 14, 1979, at 8:15 a.m.

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