

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

August 21, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-352

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: FALSE LIQUID DISCHARGE HIGH RADIOACTIVITY ALARMS RECEIVED BY
EPA'S TELEMETERED COMPOSITE MONITOR

At 10:00 p.m. on August 19, 1979, the EPA's pager which receives telemetered information from a composite sampler monitoring liquid releases from the plant alarmed. A liquid release from Unit 1 was in progress. The I&E Resident Office received notification of alarm at 11:30 p.m., August 19, 1979. All liquid releases from the plant were stopped by the licensee.

The EPA, NRC and Met-Ed took samples from the composite samplers and performed independent analyses of the samples. The sample results were all less than minimum detectable. Strip charts for plant and EPA composite samplers indicated that the alarm point had not been reached during the release.

At 7:30 p.m. August 20, 1979 the EPA pager again alarmed. The release progress was stopped and additional samples were taken and analyzed. Sample results were less than minimum detectable. The EPA pager again alarmed at 9:50 p.m. August 20, 1979. No releases were in progress at this time.

It is believed that the EPA's composite monitor telemetry system is malfunctioning. EPA is instituting repair of the telemetry system.

The liquid release were well below the NRC limits.

Public interest is expected because of the public sensitivity to Three Mile Island activities. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed. The licensee does not intend to make a press release.

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NRC, Region I, (Philadelphia) received notification of these occurrence by telephone calls from the IE Resident Office at TMI on August 19, 1979, at 11:30 p.m. and at 8:20 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., on August 20, 1979.

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