

August 22, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-358

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an 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, Units 1 & 2
Middletown, Pennsylvania
(Docket Numbers 50-289/50-320)

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS
POOR QUALITY PAGES

Subject: RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION OF AN EMPLOYEE

On August 20, 1979, an individual contaminated his trouser knees while working on a pump in the Cap-Gun 1 liquid radwaste processing system and subsequently wore the trouser home. The contamination, about 30,000 dpm, was not detected until August 21, 1979 when the individual surveyed himself at the Cap-Gun 2 facility. The individual had surveyed himself before leaving the site on August 20th; however, the licensee stated that the survey meter used was defective due to a faulty cable. On August 21st the licensee surveyed the individual's wife, apartment, clothing, and car; no contamination was found. The individual's trousers were laundered at the TMI decontamination facility, and the contamination was removed.

The licensee determined that 11 other individuals exited through the same control point using the defective survey meter. The licensee will determine if any of these personnel were contaminated. This determination will be reviewed by the NRC inspectors on site.

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 not planned by the licensee nor NRC.

NRC, Region I, (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by telephone call from the IE Resident Office at TMI on August 21, 1979 at 4:00 p.m.

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