

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Handwritten initials/signature

August 28, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-375

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 2
Middletown, Pennsylvania
(Docket No. 50-320)

Subject: HIGH AIRBORNE ACTIVITY IN THE FUEL HANDLING BUILDING

At approximately 9:15 a.m., on August 28, 1979, high airborne activity was detected in the fuel handling building and several workers were required to leave the area. Air samples counted on a Ge(Li) system indicated levels of 3.75 E⁶ uCi/cc Cs-134 and 1.70 E⁶ uCi/cc Cs-137. Using a Cs-137: Sr-89, 90 ratio from previous samples, licensee estimated Sr-89 is 5.1 E⁶ uCi/cc and Sr-90 is 2.7 E⁶ uCi/cc.

The probable source of the activity is valve MUV233A, a 1" valve in the reactor coolant makeup system which had a small (pencil stream) packing leak. The packing has been tightened and the leak has been stopped. The valve is located in a valve alley on the 281 ft. elevation of the fuel handling building. This valve alley is not normally occupied. No personnel overexposures have been reported. The NRC Resident Office staff will review exposure evaluations.

Media interest is expected because of public sensitivity to Three Mile Island activities. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was informed at 2:40 p.m., August 28, 1979.

NRC, Region I, (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by a telephone call from the IE resident staff at 10:00 a.m., August 28, 1979.

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