

August 30, 1979

*g*

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

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  
 (DN 50-320)

Subject: EXPOSURES OF SIX WORKERS TO RADIATION IN EXCESS OF NRC LIMITS

Six workers involved in repairing two valves located in the Fuel Handling Building which were leaking primary coolant on the morning of August 28, 1979 (See PNO-79-375), may have been exposed to radiation in excess of the limits specified in 10 CFR 20.101. The licensee's preliminary dosimetry results evaluated on August 29, indicate that the individuals' exposures to beta radiation may have been as high as 50 rads to the skin of the whole body; and between 40 and 150 rads to the extremities, as measured by the TLD dosimetry devices worn by the workers. NRC regulations permit exposure up to 7.5 rems for skin of the whole body and 18.75 rems to an individual's extremities per calendar quarter. Exposures to the hands of the workers are presently being evaluated by the licensee's dosimetry service. It is expected that these evaluations will be completed on August 30, 1979.

The licensee has informed the workers of the preliminary dosimetry results, and is conducting an investigation of the incident. A medical consultant has been contacted by the licensee.

The NRC Resident Office on-site was first informed of this event on August 29 at 1730 hours, following the licensee's preliminary evaluation of some of the dosimetry devices worn by the workers. NRC, Region I, (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the NRC Resident Office on-site at 1740 hours on August 29, 1979.

Media interest is expected because of the public sensitivity to activities at Three Mile Island. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was informed at 2220 hours on August 29, 1979. A press release was issued on August 29 by the licensee.

The NRC Resident Office staff on-site are following up on further developments and exposure evaluations.

Contact: EDFlack, IE x28019 LBHigginbotham, IE x28019 JMSniezek, IE x28098

Distribution: Transmitted H St

Chairman Hendrie	Commissioner Bradford	S. J. Chilk, SECY
Commissioner Kennedy	Commissioner Ahearne	C. C. Kammerer, CA
Commissioner Gilinsky	ACRS	(For Distribution)
Transmitted: MNBB	P. Bldg 11:40	V. Stella, IE
L. V. Gossick, EDO	H. R. Denton, NRR	Region I
M. L. Ornstein, EDO	R. C. DeYoung, NRR	
J. J. Fouchard, PA	R. J. Mattson, NRR	
W. M. Haller, MPA	D. Vassallo, NRR	
R. G. Ryan, OSP	D. Eisenhut, NRR	
H. L. Snapar, ELD	SS Bldg	
	W. J. Dinkers, NISS	
	S. Levine, RES	

7910110633

*5*