

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

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August 31, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-386

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: CONTAMINATION OF THREE WORKERS

On August 30, 1979, three contractor employees became contaminated while working, during the dayshift, on the 281 foot elevation of the fuel handling building. The individuals were kneeling while grouting pipe supports. The maximum contamination was 200,000 dpm on one individual's right knee. After initial decontamination, two of the individuals remained slightly contaminated with 4000 dpm and 1800 dpm on their right knees. These individuals will be further decontaminated today. The three individuals were whole body counted; two of them showed no uptake of radioactivity; one individual showed 4 nanocuries Cs-137. Maximum permissible burden of Cs-137 to the whole body is 30,000 nanocuries. Urine bioassay is being performed on all three. The NRC/IE Resident Office staff is following up on the decontamination and evaluation of these individuals.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was informed at 9:30 a.m., on August 31, 1979. The NRC and the licensee have been responding to news media inquiries.

NRC, Region I, (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by a telephone call from the NRC/IE resident staff at 8:30 a.m., on August 31, 1979.

Contact: LJCunningham, IE x28188 LBHigginbotham, IE x28454

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