

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-89-56

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region I staff on this date.

Facility:
GPU Nuclear Corporation
Three Mile Island, Unit 2
Docket Number 50-320

Licensee Emergency Classification:
 Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

Subject: DISCOVERY OF REACTOR VESSEL LOWER HEAD CRACKS

The licensee recently completed defueling a major portion of the lower head region. Visual examination of several incore guide tubes revealed lower head cracks that propagated from two of the guide tube to vessel welds. The two guide tubes, E-7 and G-6, were substantially damaged by the flow of molten fuel during the accident. At present, approximately 1" of the original 12" tubes remains. The crack at location E-7 is the more visible and is approximately 4-5 inches long and approximately 1/4" to 1/2" wide. Crack depth is unknown at this time. The licensee is presently investigating methods of determining the actual size of these cracks, along with additional cleanup of the area. The resident inspectors are following the licensee's investigation.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed.

Media interest is expected. This PN is issued for information only and is current as of 1:00 p.m., July 10, 1989.

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(Reactor Licensees)

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