

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-89-81

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: POTENTIAL PERSONNEL OVEREXPOSURE

On Wednesday, September 27, 1989, the licensee informed the NRC site staff of an incident involving the inadvertent handling of core debris by two laborers that could have resulted in the individual's receiving a dose in excess of 10 CFR 20 limits.

The incident occurred on Monday, September 25, 1989. Preliminary information indicates that while the individuals were performing decontamination operations in the Unit 2 Reactor Building, the workers unknowingly handled a piece of core debris, placing it in a radioactive waste container. A subsequent radiation survey performed on the material indicated contact dose rates of 22 R/min (gamma) and an (estimated) 193 Rad/min (Beta). Upon determining that the material was highly radioactive, the material was placed in the reactor vessel using long handled tools.

The licensee is performing a detailed assessment to establish the amount of time the individuals handled the source and the actual doses received.

A Region I radiation specialist has been dispatched to the TMI site to closely follow licensee actions.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed.

The NRC will respond to press inquiries.

Media interest is expected. This PN is issued for information only and is current as of 8:00 a.m., September 28, 1989.

CONTACT: F. Young C. Cowgill
(717) 948-1167 (215) 337-5128

11:00
JE-34

DCS No: 50320890927
Date: September 28, 1989

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(Reactor Licensees)

Region I Form 83
(Rev. April 1988)