

Paulus

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

(Date) 11/23/79

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-101-06

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 1 / Unit 2  
Middletown, Pennsylvania  
Rocket Number 50-289 / 50-320

Subject: INADVERTENT TRANSPORTATION OF CONTAMINATED WASTE OFF-SITE

On November 20, 1979, two drums containing radioactive material were inadvertently taken to the Middletown municipal incinerator along with a normal clean trash disposal shipment. The drums were returned within hours of departure and are being stored on site until further notice. A survey showed contact radiation levels on the drums of 3 mc/hr and 0.5 mc/hr respectively, with no removable contamination. Both drums were labeled with green tags indicating that the contained material was non-radioactive sometime prior to Tuesday's shipment.

The licensee is conducting an investigation to determine what corrective actions should be taken to prevent similar occurrences.

The NRC on site staff became aware of this event at approximately 2:00 p.m. on November 21, 1979. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been notified.

A press release is not planned by the licensee at this time, but media interest could be expected due to the public sensitivity to activities at Three Mile Island.

The NRC on-site staff will follow-up on the licensee's corrective action. This TN is issued for information.

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