

POOR ORIGINAL

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

January 29, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI- 80-01

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 Number 5C-320

Subject: EPICOR-II PERFORMANCE

On January 29, 1980, the licensee publicly announced that approximately 95,000 gallons of intermediate-level radioactive waste water in the TMI-2 auxiliary building tanks had been processed by the EPICOR-II system as of today. Approximately 330,000 gallons of the waste water remains in the auxiliary building yet to be processed by EPICOR-II.

Recent EPICOR-II operation has not resulted in the degree of cleanup experienced in the initial operation and this has caused a delay in the processing of water in the auxiliary building. Initial evaluation shows some of the radioactive material to be in a colloidal state which is not easily removed by ion-exchange. Additional cleanup however has been possible by recirculation of the water through EPICOR-II with removal of radioactivity by either the precoat filter or by ion-exchange.

Licensee and NRC/TMI Technical Support Staff review of this area continues.

The NRC does not plan to issue a press release but is responding to news media inquiries.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was notified.

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