

April 23, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL CONCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-80-28

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 NRC staff on this date.

Facility: Metropolitan Edison Company
Three Mile Island, Unit 2
Middletown, Pennsylvania
Docket Number 50-320

Subject: POSTPONEMENT OF INITIAL UNIT 2 REACTOR BUILDING ENTRY

On April 22, 1980, at 5:00 p.m., the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) notified the NRC of possible modifications in the personnel respiratory protection system which would be used by the licensee for initial reactor building entry. The NRC requested NIOSH to perform examinations of this respiratory protection equipment to determine the status of equipment certification. On April 23, 1980, NIOSH representatives arrived at the TMI site and examined the respiratory equipment in question, and determined that the manufacturer had performed modifications which were not previously reviewed or approved by NIOSH.

NIOSH representatives are currently examining and testing a sample of the licensee's respiratory protection equipment to determine adequacy of these modifications and status of equipment certification by NIOSH. This test is expected to be completed within the next two weeks. Reactor building entry is now postponed pending completion of NIOSH testing and approval of these modifications.

Media interest is expected because of public interest in matters related to TMI. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been notified. A press release was made by the licensee and the NRC does not plan a press release at this time.

The NRC TMI Program Office staff was notified at 2:00 p.m. by the licensee.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and the information is current as of 4:00 p.m.

Contact: H. Shanbaky 590-3950 A. Fasano 590-3950 J. Collins 590-3955

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