Preliminary notification of event or unusual concurrence—PNU-1311-00-30

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 50-32U

Subject: Unsuccessful attempt to LNTLR containment

At approximately 9:00 p.m., on May 20, 1980, the licensee attempted to enter the Unit 2 re-building, the first such attempt since the March 28 accident. The procedure was terminated after repeated attempts failed to open the inner door of the containment personnel airlock. The probable cause for the failure to open the door are several: seal surface adhesion; outer hinge binding due to corrosion; and/or suction effect due to vacuum conditions between inner door seals.

Media interest is expected because of the uniqueness of the event. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was informed. A press release was issued by Met-Ed. The NRC does not plan a press release at this time.

The NRC TMI Program Office staff monitored the event and became aware of these events as they occurred.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and the information is current as of 9:00 a.m., May 21, 1980.

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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION