

May 21, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL CONCURRENCE--PNU-IMI- 80-30

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 80-320

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS:
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Subject: UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO LNTLR CONTAINMENT

At approximately 9:00 p.m., on May 20, 1980, the licensee attempted to enter the IMI-2 reactor 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 causes for the failure to open the door are several: seal surface adhesion; door 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 evolution. 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 evolution and became aware of these events they occurred.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and the information is current as of 8:00 a.m., May 21, 1980.

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