

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PHO-TMI-80-35

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received with verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by NRC staff on this date.

Facility: Metropolitan Edison Company
Three Mile Island, Unit 1
Middletown, Pennsylvania
Docket Number 50-289

POOR ORIGINAL

Subject: Reactor Coolant System Overflow

At 9:01 a.m., June 27, 1980, an inadvertent emergency safeguards (ES) system signal was actuated, while the reactor was in cold shutdown with the RCS partially drained for eddy current testing. RCS water level was being maintained near the reactor vessel inlet and outlet nozzle heights and one decay heat pump was providing recirculation cooling. After the ES actuated, the decay heat suction isolation valve from the borated water storage tank (DH-VSA) automatically opened at 9:02 a.m. The open valve established a flow path from the BWST through the operating DH pump to the RCS. The flow path was secured at 9:04 a.m. when the control room operator manually shut DH-VSA. At that time both the upper and lower manway covers and the lower handhole cover had been removed from the "B" steam generator in preparation for plugging one tube later today, and no one was inside the steam generator. About 10,000 gallons of water was transferred from the BWST into the BCC and out the lower handhole onto the reactor building floor and to the building sump during and after the time when DH-VSA was open. The RB sump was intentionally pumped to the auxiliary building sump to prevent overflow. There was at no time a loss of DH pump cooling of the RCS. No personnel contamination or offsite release occurred.

Media interest is expected because of general public concern about matters related to Three Mile Island. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed. A press release is planned by Met-Ed.

The NRC/TMI Program Office Staff was notified at 9:30 a.m. by the Unit 1 Senior Resident Inspector while in the Control Room. 10 CFR 50.72 notifications were made.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and the information is current as of 12:15 p.m.

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