Preliminary Notification of Event or Unusual Occurrence - PNO 171 80-39

Date: June 30, 1980

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
Midlentown, Pennsylvania
Docket Number 50-320

Subject: Reactor Building Purge Status

Description of the reactor building atmosphere purge started at 2:00 p.m. on June 29, 1980, with system and associated monitor response as expected. Meanwhile, in an attempt to increase the sensitivity of the stack monitor (219) for particulates, additional instrumentation was installed and was made operational for preliminary data evaluation.

Since 2:00 p.m. June 29, 1980, the system was operated as meteorological conditions permitted. There was one system shutdown between approximately 2:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. on June 30, 1980, for reasons other than meteorological. The NRC exhaust fan motor tripped on overload.

Total calculated curies released as of 12:00 noon was 2,002. Remaining curies in the reactor building based on the last building sample was analyzed at 1.25 x 10^-3 (2.001 total).

Additional reports on reactor building purging will be updated on a daily basis during the initial stages of purging. The NRC Region I mobile laboratory will continue to be used to verify the licensee's analytical results.

Media interest has occurred because of public sensitivity to this evolution and TMI related events. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has monitored these events. NRC has responded to inquiries. The NRC/TMI Program Office Staff has monitored events as they occur on a 24-hour basis.

This information is current as of 12:00 noon.

Contact: R. J. Conte 590-2950
A. Fasano 590-3950
J. T. Collins 590-3955