

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

July 3, 1960

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL CONCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-80-38C

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: REACTOR BUILDING PURGE STATUS

Purging of the reactor building atmosphere utilizing the modified hydrogen control (MHC) system continued at various system flow rates based on meteorological condition. Momentary shutdowns also occurred due to stack monitor filter changeouts. An unscheduled shutdown at 5:46 a.m. occurred due to the loss of the sample pump for the effluent monitor (HP-R-219A). A replacement pump has been installed as of 8:30 a.m. and purging resumed at that time.

Maximum purge system flow rate was approximately 540 cfm while stack flow rate averaged approximately 100,000 cfm in the past 24 hours. Total calculated radioactivity released as of 7:00 a.m. was 14,346 Ci based on stack flow rate and measured stack concentration. Remaining concentration in the reactor building based on the last building sample was analyzed at 0.72 uCi/cc (40,781 Ci, total).

An additional monitor, consisting of a 3X3 inch sodium iodide crystal detector installed in the plant stack sample line, is providing signals to a multi channel analyzer where K_α-05 gamma signals are distinguished from other potential isotopes, in particular cesium 137. This new monitor is being used as backup to the plant effluent monitor (HP-R-219A) with associated filter sample analyses. The sample analysis requires the removal of HP-R-219A particulate filter, once per day, for spectral analysis to identify any particulate activity indication. All releases were made in accordance with the Commission order, the Technical Specifications and the licensee's procedures.

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 11:30 a.m.

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