July 9, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-80-28G

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events or 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. Yesterday's system shutdown on high alarm of the purge system monitor (HP-R-229) noble gas channel was due to a faulty detector cable. The detector and cable were replaced and the monitor was restored to operation.

In addition, based on meteorological conditions, it was decided to utilize the modified reactor building purge system (MPS) for a faster purge rate. Maximum purge system flow rate was approximately 4,000 cfm. while stack flow rate averaged approximately 105,000 cfm in the past 24 hours. Total calculated radioactivity released as of 10:00 a.m. was 33,735 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 0.13 uCi/cc (7,646 Ci, total).

System effluent monitors continue to indicate no particulate activity being emitted.

During the operation of the fast purge system leaks were detected in the system resulting in local noble gas concentration (approximately 100 MPC) near the ventilation system in the auxiliary building. The majority of these leaks were corrected. Current concentration was determined to be 8-10 MPC.

Further identification of additional leaks is in progress. All gaseous leakage was monitored prior to release.

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 11:00 a.m.

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