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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

July 25, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-80-38J

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

From July 10 to July 24, 1980, the reactor building atmosphere Kr-85 concentration increased from 1.9×10^{-4} uCi/cc to 1.54×10^{-3} uCi/cc based on periodic sampling with no purging evolutions in progress.

The water in the reactor building sump is suspected to be off-gassing Kr-85. On Friday, August 1, 1980, the licensee intends to purge the reactor building using the modified purge system in accordance with Environmental Technical Specification (Appendix B to License No. DPR-73) release rates. Subsequent periodic purges of the reactor building are also being planned.

In addition, the licensee intends to issue a technical report on the differences in calculated curies released as a result of the purge operation. A pre-purge inventory of approximately 57,000 curies is assumed based on reactor building samples, but approximately 43,000 curies is calculated to be released using the plant effluent monitor (HPR-219A) data.

Media interest has been expected because the licensee plans to issue a press release. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed. The NRC has not made plans to issue a press release.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only. The NRC intends to review the subject technical report and continue to monitor events as they occur.

The NRC TMI Program Office received notification of this occurrence by monitoring events as they occurred.

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