

July 17, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-80-40A

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: PERSONNEL AIRLOCK NO. 2 INNER DOOR STATUS

Yesterday's preliminary notification (re: PNO-TMI-80-40) reported the failure of the inner door seals to pass the seal leakage test following the final closure of the inner door for the day. While the door was open, radiation surveys were taken inside the reactor building near the inner door. General area radiation levels ranged from approximately 20 mR/HR at the door to approximately 700 mR/HR 12-15 feet from the door.

Subsequent to these events, temporary measures (such as mating surface cleaning, taping) were utilized to correct the excessive seal leakage. At 7:00 p.m., on July 16, 1980, an additional seal leakage test was conducted and this test also failed to meet the test acceptance criteria (2772 standard cm³/min at 10 psig). A seal leakage test was conducted on the outer door successfully.

The licensee and NRC onsite staff continue to review this problem with respect to ALARA (as low as reasonably achievable) conditions. Licensee plans are to make periodic airlock entries for data collection, i.e., door gap measurements between mating surfaces, etc. In addition, during the scheduled first containment entry on July 22, 1980, (since the March 28 accident) an individual will be dedicated to the thorough cleaning of the door seals/mating surfaces. This will be followed by subsequent testing of the door seals.

A similar problem occurred on the outer door in March 1980 (re: PNO-TMI-80-14). This resulted in the door seals being replaced. However, the replacement of the inner door seals, if necessary, would involve a very distinctive radiological problem requiring extensive planning.

Media interest has occurred because of public sensitivity to TMI related events and because of licensee issuance of a press release concerning the opening of the inner door. 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 and no further specific action by the NRC is anticipated, except to continue monitoring these events.

The NRC TMI Program Office received notification of this occurrence by monitoring the events as they occurred and this information was current as of 2:00 p.m.. A 10 CFR 50.72 report was evaluated as not being necessary by the licensee.

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