

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

July 21, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI- 80-41

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: MINOR SPILL AT THREE MILE ISLAND

At 7:30 a.m. on July 19, 1980, while dewatering a used EPICOR I filter liner in preparation for shipment, a leaking hose connection allowed contaminated water to be spilled on the ground. The area of the spill was within a temporary storage area for spent filters. Preliminary estimates of the amount of water spilled was 5 gallons.

The area contaminated was approximately 2 ft. by 4 ft. with a maximum contamination level of 480 mRad/hr. beta and 30 mR/hr. gamma. The area was covered with plastic and removal of the contaminated soil is in progress. Isotopes identified in samples taken from the contaminated area were limited to Cs-137 and Cs-134. Water and soil analytical results are still being evaluated by the onsite NRC staff.

The licensee plans to decontaminate the area until it is clean, determined by a direct frisk and by soil samples to confirm acceptable levels of contamination within the area. The results of decontamination will be reviewed by the onsite NRC staff. The contamination was confined to a small area and there was no releases to the general environment.

Media interest has been expected because of licensee notification to local officials. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed. Neither the NRC or the licensee have made plans to issue a press release.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and no further action by the NRC is anticipated except for routine followup to this type of event.

The NRC TMI Program Office received notification of this occurrence by the licensee at 9:15 a.m. on July 19, 1980, and this information was current as of 9:00 a.m., today. A 10 CFR 50.72 report was evaluated as not being necessary by the licensee.

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