

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

IE: X00S

August 8, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-80-43

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: OPENING OF DECAY HEAT VALVE

At 1:00 p.m., today, one of the reactor coolant system's boundaries was extended by controlled and planned procedures. The boundary was previously located within the containment building, but is presently at the 280'6" elevation piping of the decay heat removal system in the fuel handling building.

This boundary change was achieved by opening decay heat valve #1. This was necessary to permit the near future operation of the mini-decay heat removal system.

The valve that was opened (DH-V1) is located in the piping that would normally take suction from the reactor vessel for decay heat system operation. The valve has been closed since before the TMI accident.

Isolation of the reactor coolant system is presently being maintained by valve DH-V3 which is downstream of DH-V1, just before the mini-decay heat system tie-in.

Media interest has been expected because of public sensitivity to TMI related events. 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 action by the NRC is anticipated.

The NRC TMI Program Office received notification of this occurrence from the licensee.

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