

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

November 6, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI- 80-49

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: LOSS OF DECAY HEAT TO REACTOR BUILDING AMBIENT TEST

At 9:00 a.m. today the licensee commenced the Loss to Ambient Test (Loss of Reactor Decay Heat to Reactor Building Ambient Test). This test was initiated to demonstrate that sufficient heat transfer occurs from the reactor coolant system to the reactor building ambient (air and sump water) to adequately cool the reactor core.

This test reflects a change in the past reactor cooling mode since the March 28 accident. Prior to the test steaming occurred under vacuum in the "A" once through steam generator (OTSG) with the "B" OTSG isolated. The test condition now requires both OTSG's to be isolated.

The test is conducted in accordance with a procedure (with associated safety evaluation) approved by the onsite NRC staff.

The test will be terminated if:

- The average incore thermocouple temperature exceeds 150°F or increases more than 10°F in one hour.
- Any incore thermocouples and hot leg temperature exceeds 200°F.
- The hot leg temperature for either OTSG increase more than 10°F in one hour.

Equipment necessary to reestablish steaming on the "A" OTSG will remain operable throughout the test.

The test is planned to last 15 days. At that time the licensee will evaluate gathered data and recommend to the onsite NRC staff on whether or not to continue the test.

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 and no further action by the NRC is anticipated.

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