

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

November 28, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-80-52

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: CONTAMINATION OF EXPANSION JOINTS

During a licensee survey of the 281 ft. elevation of the Unit 2 auxiliary building on November 27, 1980, unexpected levels of contamination were found in an expansion joint (seam). The seam runs between the service building on one side and the auxiliary building and the air intake tunnel on the other side. Contamination was also found in another expansion joint which is contiguous to the first and lies between the service building and reactor building annulus. The expansion joints are approximately one inch thick and are composed primarily of cork.

Direct radiation measurements, smears, samples of cork (approximately 10-20 grams each), and a sample of water which permeated the cork were taken by the licensee. The highest level of activity is apparently located on the seam between the service building and auxiliary building. The maximum direct radiation levels in this area of the seam were 0.48 R/hr gamma and 2.08 Rad/hr beta; maximum activity on a cork sample was approximately 115 uCi/sample (cesium); maximum activity on a water sample was approximately 1.7 uCi/ml (cesium).

The contaminated areas lie within the licensee's radiologically controlled area. They have been roped off and posted. The areas with greater than 0.1 Rad/hr beta radiation have been shielded to reduce the beta to zero.

Two radiation specialists (inspectors) from the NRC TMI Program Office responded to the site on the evening of November 27, 1980. The inspectors toured the areas containing the contaminated seams, reviewed licensee data and made independent measurements. The source and extent of the contamination are being investigated by the licensee and NRC.

Media interest has been expected because of public sensitivity to TMI related events. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed. Neither the NRC nor the licensee have made plans to issue a press release.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only.

The NRC TMI Program Office received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the supervisor of Plant Operations at 6:30 p.m., November 27, 1980, and this information was current as of 12:30 p.m., November 28, 1980.

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