

January 19, 1981

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-81-03A

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 1
Middletown, Pennsylvania
Docket Number 50-289

Subject: HEATUP AND PRESSURIZATION OF THE REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM (RCS)

On January 18, 1981, the operational and testing activities at TMI-1 were temporarily terminated due to discovery on January 17, 1981, of a small leak in the makeup system piping. With the RCS at approximately 340 psig and 170F, an auxiliary operator identified a leak (less than 1 gpm) from a weld on a one inch pipe. The RCS was depressurized to 45 psig by 5:00 a.m., January 18, 1981, and is being maintained in that condition with possible resumption of activities in a few days.

No personnel injuries or contamination occurred. No increase in radiological effluent releases were detected by plant gaseous or liquid monitors. The water that leaked was collected in the auxiliary building drain system.

The cause of the leakage is being reviewed by the plant staff.

Media interest is expected because of public sensitivity to TMI related events and licensee plans to issue a press release. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed. The NRC does not plan to issue a press release.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only. The resident inspection staff is monitoring the licensee activities and plans for corrective action.

The Senior Resident Inspector (TMI Unit 1) received notification of this occurrence by a telephone call from the Unit 1 Supervisor of Operations at 9:30 a.m., January 18, 1981. This information was current as of 3:00 p.m., today. A 10 CFR 50.72 report was evaluated as not being necessary by the licensee.

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