

February 5, 1981

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-81-04

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 POWER TO REACTOR BUILDING PURGE SYSTEM

At approximately 8:10 a.m., the licensee discovered the electrical bus 2-47, located on the 328' elevation of the auxiliary building was smoking. The bus was electrically isolated. This bus supplied power to the reactor building heating-ventilation-air conditioning substation (HVAC) which supplies power to the reactor building system exhaust fans used in building purge evolutions. The purge evolution, which was in progress, was secured and the system put in a temporary shutdown condition.

The planned reactor building entry was put on hold pending further investigation into the cause of the smoking in the electrical bus. No personnel had entered the building. The industrial cooling system for the reactor building was put on service to maintain vacuum conditions in the building.

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 the onsite staff will follow events as they occur.

The NRC TMI Program Office received notification of this occurrence during a telephone conversation between the TMI-2 Senior Resident Inspector and a control room operator at 8:15 a.m., today, and this information was current as of 10:00 a.m.. A 10 CFR 50.72 report was evaluated as not being necessary by the licensee.

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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION