

February 5, 1981

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PHO-TMI-81-04A

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 (UPDATE)

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.

The licensee's investigation revealed the existence of a burned-out controller for 1 of 8 heaters in the reactor building ventilation supply system. The controller was isolated and power restored to bus 2-47. The reactor building purge was reinitiated at 11:01 a.m.. Further, the licensee is proceeding with plans to enter the reactor building today.

Media interest has been expected because the licensee has issued 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.

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 12:30 p.m.. A 10 CFR 50.72 report was evaluated as not being necessary by the licensee.

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 PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION