

February 19, 1981

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-81-05

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
Middletown, Pennsylvania
Docket Number 50-320

Subject: ONSITE GROUND WATER MONITORING PROGRAM UPDATE



The licensee verbally reported that water samples taken from well No. February 11, 1981, contained increased concentrations of Cesium-137 (Cs-137) (371 pci/l) and Cs-134 (134 pci/l) and Cobalt-60 (Co-60) (14.3 pci/l).

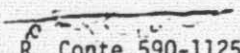

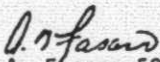
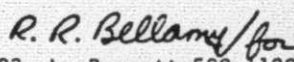
Well No. 2 is an onsite well, which is located a few yards east of the Borated Water Storage Tank (BWST) (see attached diagram). These results represent an increase (approximately, an order of magnitude) in these quantities from previous results. This is being investigated by the licensee.

The positive indication of Co-60 tends to support the licensee's conclusion that the source of radioactive material identified in the wells is the BWST, not the water inside the Containment Building.

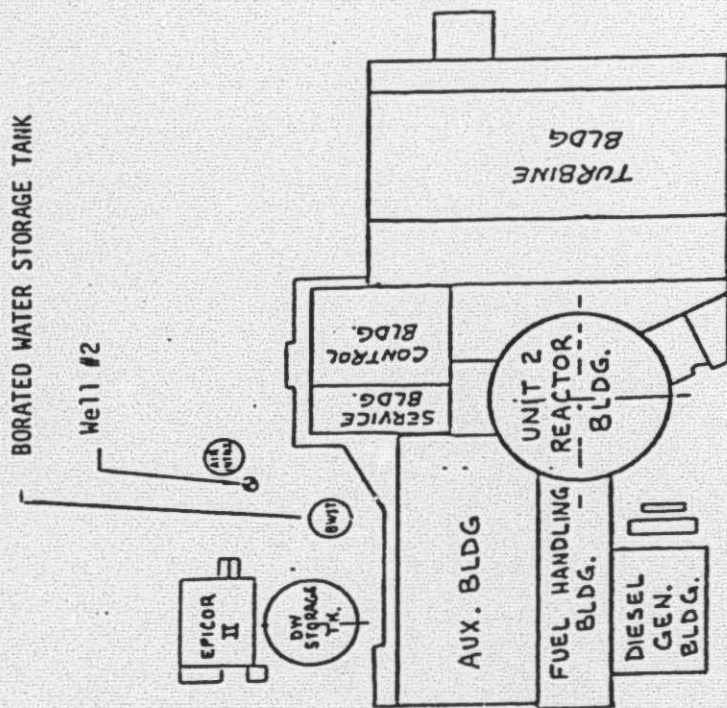
Media interest is expected because of licensee issuance of a press release. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed. The NRC does not plan to issue a press release.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only. The onsite NRC staff will continue investigating the contamination levels in the onsite wells and possible causes and sources of this contamination.

The NRC TMI Program Office received notification of this event from the Director, TMI-2 today at 11:00 a.m.

Contact:  R. Conte 590-1125  M. Shanbaky 590-1140  A. Fasano 590-1123  R. R. Bellamy/for
L. Barrett 590-1120

LOCATION OF TMI MONITORING WELL #2



February 19, 1981

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H ST BLDG 6:50 p
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PHILLIPS BLDG 5:55 p
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MARYLAND NATIONAL
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 Asst. Chief Hearing
 Counsel, OELD

 PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION