

March 18, 1981

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-81-07

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: REACTOR BUILDING (CONTAINMENT) ENTRY

On March 17, 1981, between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. the seventh entry into the TMI-2 Reactor Building was conducted. All planned tasks were successfully completed except one of the tasks was not accomplished due to an equipment interference problem.

An ion exchange media column test was to be conducted to support technical data evaluation for the Submerged Demineralizer System (system planned by the licensee to use for containment sump water cleanup). This test involved lowering a submersible pump into the sump water. However, during the lowering process the pump became lodged between conduit or piping in an area approximately 3 feet above the sump water level. Consequently it could not be moved in either direction, up or down.

A second phase to the entry is to be accomplished March 19, 1981. Today, the licensee is planning to submit a proposal to the onsite staff to utilize a sump sample pump for the ion exchange media. (This temporary pump was successfully used to obtain water samples from the sump yesterday.)

Onsite staff monitoring of this event will continue.

Media interest has occurred because the licensee issued a press release. In addition, today the licensee is conducting tours for the media in which approximately 100 reporters are expected onsite. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed. The NRC has not made plans to issue a press release.

The NRC TMI Program Office received notification of this occurrence by monitoring events as they occurred and this information was current as of 9:00 a.m.

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