

March 23, 1981

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

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 (UPDATE)

The seventh entry into the Unit 2 Reactor Building commenced on Tuesday, March 17, 1981, and was completed on Friday, March 20, 1981. The entry was originally scheduled for a three day period but was extended when difficulties were encountered with an experiment designed to process a small volume of Reactor Building sump water through a test zeolite ion exchange column. Initially, technicians were unable to lower a submersible pump into the sump water. During the second phase of the entry, on Thursday, March 19, 1981, the pump was freed and five gallons of sump water were processed through the zeolite column. The five gallons of effluent from the zeolite experiment were retrieved from the Reactor Building on Friday, March 20, 1981. The effluent will be analyzed to determine the effectiveness of zeolite in processing sump water.

Media interest has occurred because of public sensitivity to TMI related events. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed. The NRC does not plan a press release at the present time.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and no further actions by the NRC is anticipated.

The NRC TMI Program Office received notification of this occurrence by monitoring the events as they occurred, and this information was current as of 10:00 a.m..

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