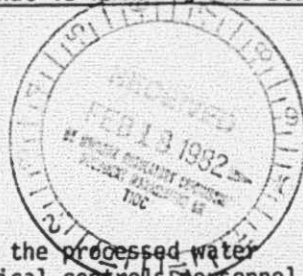


July 30, 1981

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-81-16

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: LEAKAGE FROM PROCESSED WATER STORAGE TANK

While performing a routine check of radiation levels around the processed water storage tanks, at about 8:00 p.m. on July 29, 1981 radiological controls personnel discovered leakage around the manway of the "B" tank. Initial indications were a leakage rate of about 15 drops per minute and localized ground contamination under the manway of 280 mrad/hour beta and 6-7 mR/hour gamma. The onsite NRC staff was notified of the leakage prior to 9:00 p.m. and a NRC representative reported to the site to monitor the licensee's response and corrective actions.

The tank had been filled to just above the manway (about 40,000 gallons) at about 3:00 p.m. on the same day. Contamination levels of the processed water in the tank were about 2 E-3 uCi/ml for Cs-137 and 2 E-3 uCi/ml for Sr-90.

An attempt was made to stop the leakage by tightening the bolts of the manway. When this attempt failed, the licensee instituted a contingency procedure and around midnight on July 29, 1981 began transferring the water to another tank associated with the EPICOR-II system. The level in the tank was lowered to below the manway by about 4:00 a.m. and the estimate of total leakage is less than one gallon.

The leak did not affect the submerged demineralizer system, but processing of water was temporarily stopped in order to assess the impact of the leakage.

As of 8:00 a.m., on July 30, 1981, soil contamination has been controlled. Pumping from the tank is continuing in order to open and repair the manway.

Media interest has been expected because of public sensitivity to TMI related events and the licensee plans to issue a press release. The NRC does not plan to issue a press release. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed.

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

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July 30, 1981

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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION