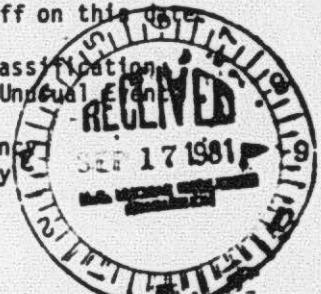


PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI- 81-18

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information 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  
Docket No. 50-320

Licensee Emergency Classification  
 Notification of Unusual Event  
 Alert  
 Site Area Emergency  
 General Emergency  
 Not Applicable



Subject: ABNORMAL REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM (RCS) LEAK RATE

At 5:00 PM, September 11, 1981 the licensee measured RCS leak rate at approximately .7 gpm. Subsequent half-hour measurement periods confirmed the leak between .6 and .9 gpm. Normal leak rate readings were .1 gpm. At 6:43 PM the same day the licensee declared an unusual event based on plant conditions warranting increased awareness in accordance with the licensee's Emergency Plan Implementing Procedures.

Licensee investigation later that evening confirmed the abnormal leak in the RCS (downstream of SPC-V71, Standby Pressure Control System) and inside the Reactor Building (RB). Based on a review of previous evolutions by a licensed operator, RC-V122, Pressurizer Liquid Sample Isolation Valve, was closed at 4:22 AM, September 12, 1981, and subsequent leak rate measurements returned to normal. The exact nature of the leak was not determined since RB entry plans were cancelled and RC-V122 is located in the RB.

No area or process radiological monitors indicated a release of radioactivity to the plant or the environment.

Media interest occurred because of licensee notification to local officials and licensee issuance of press releases throughout the weekend. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was informed. The NRC has not issued a press release but responded to media inquiries.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only. The NRC is to review the circumstances on the cycling of RC-V122.

The NRC TMI Program Office received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the Shift Foreman at approximately 6:30 PM on September 11, 1981. The onsite staff responded to the event by providing 24 hour coverage until approximately 6:00 AM, September 12, 1981. This information was current as of 8:00 AM today. A 10 CFR 50.72 report was properly made by the licensee at 7:10 PM, September 11, 1981.

Contact: R. Conte 590-1125 U. Fasano 590-1123 L. Barrett 590-1120

DISTRIBUTION:

H. St. <u>8:37</u>	MNBB <u>8:55</u>	Phillips <u>8:17</u>	EWIC <u>40</u>	Willste <u>9:00</u>	Landow <u>10:12</u>
Chairman Palladino	EDO	NRR	IE	NMSS	OIA
Comm. Gilinsky	AEDO			RES	
Comm. Bradford	PA	Air Rights <u>8:45</u>			
Comm. Ahearne	MPA	SR		INPO <u>10:20</u>	MAIL:
Comm. Roberts	ELD	NRR		NSAC <u>10:35</u>	IE:TAS
ACRS					ADM:Doc. Mgt. Br.
SECY	R:I <u>8:22</u>	R:II <u>9:05</u>	R:III <u>9:21</u>		NSOC:S. Ebbins
CA	R:IV <u>9:45</u>	R:V <u>10:15</u>			OELD:J. Tourtellotte

IEBA  
5/10