

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-82-01

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or 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:
X Notification of Unusual Event

Subject: PARTICULATE RADIOACTIVITY INCREASE IN UNIT 2 AUXILIARY AND FUEL HANDLING BUILDINGS

At 9:53 AM today the licensee declared an Unusual Event as a result of an indication of increased airborne radioactivity in the Unit 2 Auxiliary and Fuel Handling Buildings. Personnel working in the buildings were immediately evacuated. The licensee's initial investigation of this event indicated that the increased airborne radioactivity in the buildings could have resulted from blowdown of the service air lines into a potentially contaminated floor drain.

The licensee reported a slight increase in the plant airborne effluent monitor (HPR-219). Initial offsite dose calculations indicated a minute fraction of a millirem, at the site boundaries, which is indistinguishable from natural background. An offsite survey team took measurements at about 0.5 mile south of the TMI Visitors Center and confirmed no detectable radioactivity offsite. The possible source of this airborne activity was isolated at 10:00 AM. All in-plant monitors and effluent monitors were trending down to normal readings at 10:48 AM. The licensee terminated the Unusual Event at 11:30 AM. Onsite staff continues to examine the cause and circumstances involved in this event.

Media interest has occurred due to licensee notification of local officials and the licensee issuance of a press release. The NRC does not plan a press release at this time. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was informed.

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D11*

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and the NRC plans to continue monitoring events as they occur.

The NRC TMI Program Office received notification of this occurrence by an announcement over the public address system at 9:49 AM, today, and this information was current as of 11:30 AM. A 10 CFR 50.72 report was made by the licensee at 10:28 AM, January 8, 1982.

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