

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-82-03A

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:
X Notification of Unusual Event

Subject: APPARENT OXYGEN DEFICIENT ATMOSPHERE IN THE REACTOR BUILDING (UPDATE)

An unusual event was declared by the licensee at 5:26 PM (previously reported as 5:25 PM) on February 19, 1982. This occurred subsequent to two reactor building (RB) entries at 9:03 AM and 1:45 PM (same day) which indicated: apparent local low oxygen content (lowest instrument reading 12% - normal concentration readings are 20.5 - 21%) based on portable instruments; combustible gas mixture at 347' level; and a grab sample analysis from the 305' level of 1-1.5% H₂ with no detectable CO₂ and CO, and 19% ± 2% O₂.

Purging of the RB was continued. Between 5:00 PM and Midnight analyses of the RB atmosphere samples obtained via the air sampling system and portable monitor indications of the purge exhaust trains indicated normal atmospheric results of 20-21% O₂ and 78% N₂ with no detectable combustible gas.

During an RB entry, between 12:33 AM and 12:52 AM on February 20, 1982, grab air samples and portable monitors indicated normal readings except as noted below. One of two types of portable gas monitors (Gas Tech) alarmed on low oxygen upon entry into the airlock and continued to alarm throughout the entry. However, this type instrument was being used to monitor combustible gas readings only. The other type of monitors (two-Edmonts, which has separate oxygen and combustible gas meters) indicated normal O₂ concentration and no detectable combustible gases. It was also determined that the Edmont detector alarmed and indicated abnormal readings simultaneously with radio transceiver activation by technicians in the RB. The operability of the Gas Tech is being reviewed.

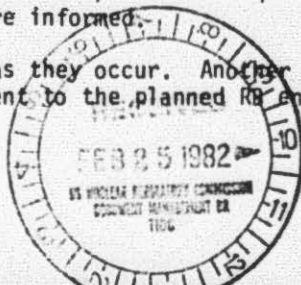
Data collection of RB atmosphere and purge train exhaust continued throughout the night with no abnormal analysis results. At 10:00 AM, today the purge system was shutdown and data collection continued via the installed air sampling system. No abnormal readings were detected.

The unusual event was secured at 2:04 AM, today.

The licensee intends to make another RB entry at 6:00 PM today to obtain grab air samples and assess gas monitor instrument performance. Another entry is planned for Monday, February 22, 1982, after the purge system has been shutdown for two days, to attempt to simulate conditions on the morning of February 19, 1982.

Media interest occurred because of licensee notification to local officials and the licensee's issuance of a press release. NRC responded to inquiries. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, EPA and DOE were informed.

The NRC plans to continue monitoring events as they occur. Another report will be issued on Monday, February 22, 1982, subsequent to the planned RB entry.



76:34
S10

February 20, 1982

The NRC TMI Program Office received notification of this occurrence by monitoring events as they occurred and this information was current as of 1:00 PM. A 10 CFR 50.72 report was not needed since NRC manning of the ENS circuit was already initiated between 5:00-5:20 PM on February 19, 1982.

Contact: *(A. Fasano)* R. Conte 590-1125 *(A. Fasano)* A. Fasano 590-1123 *(L. Barrett)* L. Barrett 590-1120

Distribution:

H. St. <u>2:45</u>	MNBB <u>2:49</u>	Phillips <u>2:53</u>	E/W <u>2:58</u>	Willste <u>3:03</u>	Landow <u>11:01</u>
Chairman Palladino	EDO	NRR	IE	NMSS	OIA
Comm. Gilinsky	AEDO			RES	
Comm. Bradford	PA	Air Rights <u>3:14</u>			MAIL:
Comm. Ahearne	MPA	SR		INPO <u>2:58</u>	IE:TAS
Comm. Roberts	ELD	NRR		NSAC <u>3:05</u>	ADM:Doc. Mgt. Br.
ACRS					NSOC:S. Ebbins
SECY	R:I <u>3:20</u>	R:II <u>3:31</u>	R:III <u>3:26</u>		OELD:
CA	R:IV <u>3:22</u>	R:V <u>3:42</u>			J. Tourtellotte