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)

Licensee personnel made an additional reactor building (RB) entry at 6:45 PM on February 20, 1982. A licensee test performed during this entry indicated that radio frequency transmissions interfered with portable gas monitors which measure O₂ and combustible gasses. The results of five grab samples of air taken during this entry all indicated normal levels of O₂ and no detectable levels of combustible gasses.

The licensee is continuing to take air samples from the HPR-227 RB dome sample connection every two hours. As of 9:00 AM today, these samples have indicated normal levels of O₂ and no detectable levels of combustible gasses. The RB entry planned for today has been cancelled. The RB purge remains shutdown.

Media interest occurred because of licensee notification to local officials and the licensee's issuance of a press release. NRC continues to respond to inquiries.

The NRC plans to continue monitoring events as they occur.