

NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-82-15

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: GPU Nuclear Corporation
Three Mile Island, Unit 2
Docket Number 50-320

Licensee Emergency Classification:
 X Not Applicable

Subject: AXIAL POWER SHAPING ROD TEST

The licensee plans to begin moving Axial Power Shaping Rods (APSR) today on the 3:00-11:00 PM shift. If possible the rods will be fully inserted so that they may later be decoupled from the lead screw before reactor vessel head removal. If the APSRs cannot be driven in, an alternate decoupling method will have to be developed prior to reactor vessel head removal. As part of the procedure for ASPR movement, the licensee will conduct tests on the APSRs, which may help to assess damage to the reactor core and internal components.

The APSRs are control rods which contain boron (a neutron adsorber) in the lower one quarter of their length. They are moved within the vessel core to adjust the shape of the neutron flux when the reactor is at power. They do not serve a shutdown function and remain stationary when the reactor is tripped (shut down). The APSRs at TMI-2 remained at approximately the 35% withdrawn position when the reactor tripped at the start of the March 28, 1979 accident.

The NRC TMI Program Office staff reviewed and approved the licensee safety analysis for this evolution and the procedure which will be used to conduct it.

Media interest will occur due to the licensee issuing a press release and conducting a press conference today. The NRC does not plan to issue a press release. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was informed.

The NRC plans to continue monitoring events as they occur. The next update to this PN is scheduled for June 24, 1982.

The NRC TMI Program Office received notification of this occurrence through continuous monitoring of licensee activities. This information was current as of 8:30 AM, today.

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