

50320-820714
July 22, 1982

NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-82-16D

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: VIDEO INSPECTION OF TMI-2 REACTOR CORE (UPDATE)

On 7/21/82, the licensee removed the leadscrew (in two sections) from the center Control Rod Drive Mechanism (CRDM) and inserted the closed circuit television (CCTV) camera into the reactor vessel head through the center CRDM (leadscrew) opening.

The maximum radiation levels on contact with the leadscrew were 10 R/hr (gamma) and 80 Rad/hr (beta). The CCTV was lowered to the elevation of the top of the core. The core was not seen until the camera was lowered an additional five feet. An irregular bed of rubble was then seen with what appeared to be metal debris with possible fuel pellets. Fuel rods and control rods in the area observed were not identifiable. A spider (an upper control rod component) from a control rod assembly was seen laying on top of the rubble.

The camera was then turned to view the bottom of the reactor vessel plenum. The plenum in the area seen by the camera appeared in reasonably good condition with no visible damage. A very limited section of the core was viewed since the camera was inserted in only one leadscrew opening. However, it appeared that the degraded core condition extends at least to the fuel assemblies adjacent to the center fuel assembly. Additional visual inspections of the core are being considered by the licensee.

Media interest will occur because the licensee plans to hold a press conference. The NRC does not plan to issue a press release. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was informed.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and no further action by the NRC is anticipated.

The NRC TMI Program Office received notification of this occurrence through continuous monitoring of licensee activities. This information was current as of 8:00 AM today.

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