

NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-82-17

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: INERTING OF EPICOR II PREFILTERS

On July 27, 1982, the gas in the first of 49 EPICOR II prefilters was sampled and inerted in preparation for shipment of the prefilters stored at the TMI site. The prefilters (each containing resin and up to approximately 1100 Ci of Cs-137 and Sr-90) were used in the EPICOR II System during 1979 and 1980 to decontaminate accident generated water which had collected in the auxiliary building. A remotely operated, TV monitored inerting tool, provided by the Department of Energy, was used in conjunction with a 30 ton concrete blockhouse to remotely sample and inert the prefilter. A sample showed that the initial gas in the liner was pressurized to 0.2 psig and consisted of 6.3% hydrogen gas and 93.7% nitrogen gas. Oxygen was not detected. Combustible gas generation rates will be monitored over a 14-day period to demonstrate that the gas composition in the prefilter will be non-flammable over twice the expected shipment period.

The Department of Energy has agreed to take possession of the prefilters for research purposes since the prefilters are not suitable for commercial shallow land burial sites. The first shipment is expected to occur in mid-August 1982.

Media interest may occur because of public sensitivity to TMI related events. Neither the licensee nor the NRC 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.

Contact: *R. R. Bellamy / for* J. Wiebe 590-1125 *R. R. Bellamy / for* A. Fasano 590-1123 *R. R. Bellamy / for* L. Barrett 590-1120

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