

NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-82-18A

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 ON AUGUST 6, 1982 (UPDATE)

One leadscrew on the core periphery and one leadscrew midway from the periphery and the core center were removed from the TMI-2 reactor. Radiation levels in the proximity of both leadscrews were in excess of 50 R/hr. The maximum detected beta dose was 2000 Rad/hr. The radiation levels in proximity of the center most leadscrew which was removed on July 21, 1982, were less than 10 R/hr. Wet black crud was observed falling off the 8B leadscrew as the leadscrew was being removed.

The closed circuit television inspection of the core periphery was limited to two spider assemblies (top of control rod end pieces). The camera could not be maneuvered under the spider assemblies and the condition of the fuel assemblies in that region of the core could not be ascertained.

The inspection of the core between the periphery and the center (control rod 9E) revealed a rubble bed approximately five feet below the top of the core region. This was the approximate depth of the rubble bed in the center of the core. Intact fuel pellets and pellet retaining springs were visible on top of the rubble. Individual intact rods were seen protruding from the rubble bed toward the top of the core. The fuel assembly upper end fittings were inspected from the bottom. Fuel rod stubs protruded downward from the upper end fittings. Some melting of the upper end fittings was evident.

The licensee is evaluating the findings of the inspection before deciding on the next course of action. The primary system remains depressurized and vented to the reactor building.

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

The TMI Program Office staff plans to continue monitoring events as they occur.

The NRC TMI Program Office received notification of this occurrence through continuous monitoring of licensee activities. This information was current as of 9:00 PM today.

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