

NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-85-03

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 Licensee Emergency Classification:  
Three Mile Island, Unit 2 X Not Applicable  
Docket Number 50-320

Subject: AIRBORNE RADIOACTIVITY IN THE AUXILIARY BUILDING

About 1950 hours, March 22, 1985, while performing decontamination in the Seal Return Cooler Room (SRCR) on the 305 ft. elevation of the Auxiliary Building (AB), unanticipated high airborne radioactivity caused alarms on the AB 328 ft. and 305 ft. elevation general area airborne monitors; Exhaust Filter Inlet and Outlet monitors in the AB; and a momentary alert warning on the station vent monitor. These alarms caused isolation of the AB ventilation supply fans. The licensee immediately evacuated all 18 personnel in the Auxiliary and Fuel Handling Building (AFHB). A licensee investigation of the station vent monitor showed no release from the building.

There were three individuals working in the SRCR when the alarms sounded. All three were wearing respiratory protection. Minor (about 800 counts per minute) contamination near the left ear was found on one individual during undressing. Breathing zone air samples taken during the job (18 minutes long) indicate airborne activity of 2.5 E-6 uCi/ml cesium-137 in the SRCR. Whole body counting of one individual, who was in the SRCR, showed no detectable internal radioactivity. Whole body counts of all individuals in the AFHB at the time will be conducted on March 25, 1985.

The licensee restricted access to the AFHB until surveys were performed. Access was restored to the AFHB as of March 25, 1985.

The licensee is investigating the incident. NRC TMI Program Office (TMIPO) Radiation Specialists are closely following the investigation. A TMIPO Radiation Specialist reviewed licensee initial actions on March 23, 1985. A test of the Auxiliary Building Exhaust Filter System indicated no abnormal leakage.

Media interest has occurred because the licensee has issued a press release. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was informed.

This information is current as of 9:00 AM, March 25, 1985.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and the NRC plans to continue monitoring events as they occur.

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