



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION
631 Park Avenue, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

50-300

THREE MILE ISLAND, PENNSYLVANIA -- The Metropolitan Edison Company has reported to the NRC staff that the depth of water inside the Three Mile Island Unit 2 containment building has been shown to be approximately six feet of water, or about 450,000 gallons, on the floor of the building.

Measurements made on May 15, and giving results of 8 feet and about 600,000 gallons, were in error. The error apparently resulted from the use of an incorrect selection of height reference at the location in the auxiliary building used to make the measurement. The height reference was a pipe in a room that was believed to have been a known distance above the containment floor level. It was later determined that the pipe was two feet higher than had been thought. Direct access to the floor of the containment is not yet possible because of the radiation levels.

These measurements employing a kind of water level gauge (a heise gauge) will be made at intervals to keep track of the water level. Leakage of 700 to 1,000 gallons of water per day into the containment may increase the water level by a fraction of an inch each day.

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