

Tifft, Doug

From: Tifft, Doug
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2009 3:20 PM
To: McNamara, Nancy
Subject: Re: Correcting the Record Re:TMI Airborne Cont in Containment

Great email.

Doug Tifft
Regional State Liaison Officer

Sent from an NRC blackberry

From: McNamara, Nancy
To: Wilds, Edward <Edward.Wilds@ct.gov>; Chomiszak Janet (DEMA) <Janet.Chomiszak@state.de.us>; Fisher-Tyler Frieda (DHSS) <Frieda.Fisher-Tyler@state.de.us>; SWilson@mde.state.md.us <SWilson@mde.state.md.us>; Giarrusso, John (CDA) <John.Giarrusso@state.ma.us>; Kathryn Doutt <kdoutt@nhoem.state.nh.us>; Paul Baldauf <Paul.Baldauf@dep.state.nj.us>; Feeney, Andrew <Andrew.Feeney@semo.state.ny.us>; paul_eddy@dps.state.ny.us <paul_eddy@dps.state.ny.us>; Alyse L. Peterson <alp@nyserda.org>; Vanags, Uldis <Uldis.Vanags@state.vt.us>
Cc: Tifft, Doug; Thomson, Rebecca <rebecca.thomson@dhs.gov>; 'darrell.hammons@dhs.gov' <darrell.hammons@dhs.gov>; Colman, Steve <steve.colman@dhs.gov>
Sent: Sun Nov 22 14:59:22 2009
Subject: Correcting the Record Re:TMI Airborne Cont in Containment

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Good Afternoon, everyone. By now you may have seen some news reports on an airborne contamination event within the containment building at Three Mile Island. Depending on the news station, is depending on whether the information is correct. The event has been reported by some media outlets as a "Radioactive Leak at TMI".

The purpose of this email is to inform you of the facts in case you are asked or just curious.

- Last evening, November 21, 2009, the NRC was informed that while performing work on the replacement of the TMI Steam Generators, an airborne contamination event occurred inside the containment building.
- No contamination was found outside the containment building and the event had no affect on public health and safety. (However, news media were called by individuals that a radiation event outside of the reactor building had occurred)
- Approximately 150 workers were evacuated from the containment building and processed through the licensee's portal radiation monitors. Workers that were not able to clear the portal monitors were decontaminated and proceeded to be whole body counted. Preliminary reports indicate that a small number of workers received unplanned occupational dose exposures but the licensee reports the level of dose received was within a small fraction of the NRC's regulatory limit.
- The NRC dispatched 2 technical experts to independently review and confirm the licensee's technical assessment and the NRC's resident inspector is onsite monitoring the licensee's activities.
- The licensee continues to investigate the cause of the event.

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- Based on the amount of media interest and the mischaracterization of the facts, the NRC conducted a press briefing today at the TMI training center for answering questions. The licensee continues to respond to the media for trying to get the misinformation corrected, as well.

We (licensee, nrc and state) are on hour 16 in trying to get the record straight, and for a low level event that wasn't even reportable to the NRC. Interestingly enough, the ABC news van was at the site covering the story at the same time the licensee was just informing the State and the NRC. This folks, is the reality of instantaneous messaging and cell phones.

Any questions, I can be reached by cell or Doug will be in office in the morning.

Nancy

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