

IMMEDIATE

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

April 7, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-67M

This preliminary notification constitutes summary information of an event of safety or public interest significance. The information presented is a summary of information as of 7:00 a.m. on 4/7/79.

Facility: Three Mile Island Unit 2
Middletown, Pennsylvania (DN 50-320)

Subject: NUCLEAR INCIDENT AT THREE MILE ISLAND

Plant Status:

The reactor pressure is about 1075 psi with bulk core coolant inlet and outlet temperatures at about 285° F. At approximately 1:25 p.m. on April 6, reactor coolant pump 1A tripped and reactor coolant pump 2A was started within about two minutes. After the change in operating pumps, there was a shift in the core thermocouple readings. The three thermocouples that had readings above 400° F are presently reading between 285° F and 315° F. The central thermocouple (position 8H) reading changed from approximately 375° F to 455° F and is now reading 453° F, the only reading above 400° F. The average temperature of the 30 thermocouples being monitored is 304° F.

The venting of Waste Gas Decay Tanks (WGDT) "A" and "B" to the containment building was resumed at 9:15 a.m. on April 6, 1979 and stopped at about 3:00 a.m. on April 7 when the pressures of WGDT "A" and "B" were 32 and 30 psig, respectively. At the time the venting was secured, a small release occurred resulting in radiation readings somewhat lower than previously experienced during such operations. Following venting of the WGDT to containment, the hydrogen concentration in the containment was slightly greater than 2%.

The discharge to the river from the industrial waste storage tanks (IWST) was resumed at 6:15 a.m. on April 6, 1979 at an average rate of 100 gpm. The IWST level is now about 52%.

Environmental Status:

Off-site radiation levels as identified by NRC survey teams continue to range between 0.01 and 0.1 mr/hr. These routine survey results were obtained on the east and west sides of the Susquehanna River at distances of four miles north and south of TMI. Prevailing winds during April 6 were from 270° to 300° (SSE).

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ARMS surveys were performed at 0700 and 1810 on April 6, 1979. The surveys identified a plume in the 120°-140° sector during both flights. The maximum radiation level identified during the 0700 survey was 0.3 mr/hr one mile from the site at 900 feet elevation. The 1810 flight identified 0.05 mr/hr three miles from the site at 500 feet elevation.

The State of Pennsylvania reported an iodine 131 level of 12 picocuries per liter (pCi/l) for one milk sample collected on April 5, 1979. Pennsylvania's minimum detectable activity (MDA) for this type of measurement is 10 pCi/l. The State of Maryland reported iodine 131 levels less than MDA (10 pCi/l) for one sample collected on April 4, 1979 and a second collected on April 5, 1979.

Airborne concentrations for 34 EPA samples collected between April 4, 1979 and April 5 were reported as at or less than MDA (1.8×10^{-13} microcuries per milliliter).

No new data regarding vegetation and water samples have been reported.

Dose rates in populated areas as measured by NRC thermoluminescent dosimeters (TLDs) showed only minor changes from the previous day. Minor fluctuations are expected at these low dose rates. Ten additional TLD stations at area schools were established on April 5 (making a total of 47 stations). Following are the radiation dose rates for previously reported locations:

Dose Rate (Milliroentgens per Hour)

	<u>4/1/79</u>	<u>4/2/79</u>	<u>4/3/79</u>	<u>4/4/79</u>	<u>4/5/79</u>	<u>4/6/79</u>
Falmouth	0.15	0.01	0.20	0.04	0.02	0.02
Middletown	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
Goldsboro	0.13	0.05	0.07	0.07	0.05	0.03
Goldsboro - South	0.04	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.02
Lewisberry	0.05	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.02
Pleasant Grove	0.04	0.02	0.06	0.01	0.01	0.02
York Haven	0.07	0.02	0.10	0.05	0.01	0.02
Conewago Heights	0.04	0.02	0.07	0.02	0.01	0.02
Emigsville	0.05	0.02	0.07	0.02	0.02	0.02

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