

IMMEDIATE
PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

QIB

May 7 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF AN EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-79-67AM

This preliminary notification provides updated information of safety or public interest significance.

Facility: Three Mile Island Unit 2
Middletown, Pennsylvania

Subject: NUCLEAR INCIDENT AT THREE MILE ISLAND

Operational Status:

1. Three of four trains of an independent, additional charcoal filter system are presently in operation. Iodine concentrations in the gaseous effluent are consistently below continuous release limits and below normally detectable levels most of the time.
2. Hydrostatic testing of the existing decay heat removal system ("B" loop) is in progress.
3. The pressurizer has been taken "solid" to demonstrate continued decay heat removal capability with the primary coolant system completely filled and to obtain confirmatory information on pressurizer level.
4. Measurement of the liquid level inside containment is planned in the near future by measuring the hydrostatic head on the sump discharge piping using a recently installed Heise gage.
5. A measurement was made of the radioactivity inside the containment building. It indicates that the present dose level from gases within the building is about 100 R/hr. Other radiation sources such as activity deposited on the containment walls and water on the reactor building floor also contribute to the dose levels in the containment but cannot be directly estimated at this time.

Environmental Status

Environmental radiation levels continue to be consistent with natural background levels. Approximately thirteen minor releases have occurred during the past week (May 1-6) in conjunction with venting of the primary make-up tank. Aerial and ground surveys taken during these releases indicated radiation levels at background, except for the periods 2000-2100 hrs on 5/1, 1500-2000 hrs on 5/3, and 0700-0800 hrs on 5/4, when aerial measurements reported I-131 at MDA levels and ground survey readings were 0.034 to 0.04 mR/hr. During the period May 1-6, approximately 37 air samples were collected and all were less than MDA. Vegetation samples collected following the releases were all less than MDA. EPA air and water samples collected during the period April 26 to May 3 showed no evidence of fission products (0.1-0.2 picocuries per cubic meter I-131 for air, and 130 picocuries per liter I-131 for water).

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